Arifureta Vol 11 (WN 99-109)

Chapter 99: The Apostle's Raid, and The Kings Capital is Invaded
In a room where the only light source was produced by the moonlight rays, causing a contrast of black and white from the narrow grate window.

A simple and plain room can be seen. It's only around 6 tatami mats in size with a small desk, chair, wooden bed, and a simple toilet. If compared to Earth's prison cells, it's obvious that this is much worst.

In such a bad prison, sitting on the bed in the corner, is Hatanaka Aiko who is currently burying her face in her knees.

It's been 3 days since Aiko was brought to this room.

Due to the bracelet artifact worn on her wrist, Aiko could not use magic. Still, though she tried to escape at first, as expected, it wasn't possible to pry open a steel door with her physical strength alone, moreover, the opening of the grate window is only big enough for one of her arms to just barely pass through.

Even then, the current rooms position is at the very top of an expensive temple, it is the **[**Kamiyama**]***God's Mountain* temple, even though it should be impossible to reach the ground safely, there are members of the church standing on watch.

In such a position, while worrying about her students safety, Aiko who cannot do anything is dejected and gloomy, Her already small body stature becomes even smaller on the bed.

[.....I need to get to my students…...but how……]

Aiko while looking up muttered slightly, she remembered what the nun with the silver hair had said to her as she was kidnaped. Aiko's thoughts, if what she heard from Hajime would become an inconvenience when told to Kouki and them, it's obvious who the

“master” that she spoke of is. And it appears that they’ve taken interest in a student as well.

Aiko’s mind became filled with unspeakable uneasiness. Recalling, the events of Ulu*Town where Hajime’s group repelled the demon army*, where one of her students lost their life, Yukitoshi Shimizu. Possibly, again, another student will…., with these thoughts in her mind Aiko became more anxious.

Being confined in this open room, she tried to think about things that she could currently do. If she settled down and look back calmly, the royal palace felt too unnatural and covered with a thick sense of incongruity. In Aiko’s mind, with a strong posture, she remembered the dangerous atmosphere that King Erihido and other leaders carried.

Surely, Aiko began to guess that the nun with silver hair had done something. She definitely said, “charm” if that was true then, surely, something along the lines of brainwashing was done.

However, at the same time, when talking with Shizuku and Ririana, such odd sense of incongruity was not there. Though becoming relieved about that, there is still a strong uneasiness built up in her chest due to being confined.

While praying for their safety, another concern was remembered. it was the words, “elimination of the irregular.” Those words were she heard just before completely losing consciousness, for some reason Aiko recalled a certain student.

The person that she owes her life to, the student that killed Yukitoshi Shimizu. While holding strong will and overpowering strength, the boy who thought seriously and listen to Aiko’s words. And, a lot of things happened, a various amount of things, deep inside, as expected deep inside, though she shouldn’t think about it, but she still ended up remembering.

The memory that she desperately tried to seal in her mind, is once again remembered, for some reason her cheeks become hot. Though Aiko was shaking her head to clear her mind of it, she begins to worry about Hajime's safety, and carelessly muttered his name.

[.....Nagumo-kun]
[Ou? what, sensei?]
[Fe!?]

From the sudden answer to her unconscious mumbling, she instinctively let out a unexpected voice. There shouldn't be anyone else in the room, while looking throughout the room, Aiko inclining her head, [Was it a hallucination?] she said. However, Aiko was definitely not hallucinating, again, she heard the voice.

[Over here, sensei]
[Eh?]

Aiko's body became alerted to the voice, it wasn't a hallucination after all! Her gaze peered towards the narrow grate window. There, it was the appearance of Hajime that was peeping through from the otherside.

[Eh? Eh? Nagumo-kun? Eh? This is the top floor….of this temple….eh?]
[Ah~, yes. First of all, calm down sensei. Im almost done confirming for traps…...]

Disregarding Aiko's confused stare, Hajime confirms whether there are any traps with his Magic Eye, then "Transmuting" was used and bright red sparks appeared, a hole big enough for one person to pass through was made and with that the invasion was complete.

The room Aiko is confined in is about 100 meters above ground level. However, he entered as if he was on solid ground! That is to say, for Hajime to casually opened a hole and walked right in, caused Aiko to stare in shock.

Hajime shows a small smile towards the amazed Aiko.

[What, is it really that surprising. Didn't you notice that I was coming? Though I should have already cut off all traces of my presence…...I've lost a bit of my confidence now]
[He? Noticed? Eh?]
[No, because, you call out my name. Didn't you sense me outside the window?]

Obviously, in order for Aiko to feel Hajime's presence shouldn't be possible unless "Perception" was used, but Aiko simply called out his name because of her desires, while thinking that, Aiko couldn't say that she unconsciously muttered his name, she quickly thought that changing the topic would be the best choice.

[Um, besides that, why are you here……]
[To help, of course]
[Wa, for me? Nagumo-kun? You came all the way here to help me?]

To Aiko who began to blush and mumble strangely ~awaawa~, Hajime carefully examined her stature, surely she hasn't already been brainwashed? Hajime thought while frowning. With a serious look in his eyes, he began to closely examine Aiko with his Magic Eye to look for signs of magic manipulation.

While walking up towards Aiko who sat on the bed, observing in great detail, Aiko started blushing a great deal and her heartbeat escalated. Anyways, the boy that she was just thinking about, came to help after hearing about her predicament, beside her on the bed at night, being watched by such an intense expression. It's just a student and teacher, there shouldn't be any particular problem right? Though she thought so…..Aiko wasn't confident to say it out loud, she became stiff as she could do nothing but return the gaze that Hajime is giving her.

Hajime, thinking that it'll be ok now that the Magic Eye didn't pick up any kind of magic manipulation, grabs onto Aiko's hand. He was going to remove the artifact that was binding her magic.

However, Aiko whose hand was suddenly grabbed [Hyau~!] a strange voice leaked out and she shrunk down a bit, [Stop! It's no good! Nagumo-kun! Such thing can't be permitted! I'm a teacher!], she began to yell.
[No, isn't it inconvenient if your magic is sealed? Or, is there something wrong with it? Though there doesn't seem to be any traps]
[Eh? Ah, this thing…..]
[.....what else is there]
[Ah, ahaha…...sorry. Its nothing……]

Suspicion passes, Hajime's eyes began to show a disappointed look, Aiko tried to deceive him with a fake smile. And, changing the topic, asked how he knew where she was being locked up.

[The princess told us]
[Princess? Princess Ririna?]
[Ahh. She witnessed you being kidnapped. While judging that Amanogawa*Kouki* and them were under surveillance, she decided to escape the royal capital. Then she requested our help]
[Riri did…..then Nagumo-kun accepted her request]
[Maa~na, I seem to be responsible for this situation too…..though sensei might not have wanted to see me…...well, please endure it until we return to everybody]

After Hajime finished removing the artifact that sealed Aiko's magic, he stood up. Aiko, predicted that Hajime's last line was about Shimizu's death. And, Aiko's eyes looked straight at the dubious Hajime, then began saying what she truly felt about it.

[Not wanting to see you, there's no such thing. You've come to help, I'm really glad. ……Certainly, Shimizu-kun's situation can't be completely forgotten, and it's likely to never to able to forget it….still, your

intentions you had when you pulled the trigger….. I think I understand them. I don't hold a grudge against you, I don't hate you either]
[.....Sensei]

To the wide eyed Hajime, Aiko revealed an anxious smile with gentleness.

[At that time, because I couldn't say it properly…..now, please let me say it. ….Thank you for helping me. I'm sorry for making you pull the trigger]
[.....]

Hajime had a wry smile because it appears that Yue was correct, still, it's a fact that I've caused Aiko pain, however he couldn't bring it up.

[I, I only did what I wanted to do. Though I'll receive your gratitude, you don't have to apologize. Rather than that, lets leave soon. The princess should have reached Amanogawa and the rest already. After we join up with them, it's necessary to talk about the future]
[I understand. …..Nagumo-kun, please be careful. The church sees you as a heretic. And, to the one that kidnapped me, you are probably…..]
[I know. Either way, after I deliver you, I'll be taking care of the unfinished business, probably, at that time, the church and I will clash against one another. ….I've already prepared for it though]

Hajime nodded to Aiko with a gaze of strong will. Aiko's cheek becomes hot again due to the gaze, Aiko tried to word out her concerns once more.

but, at that time, a roaring sound of something breaking was heard from afar, the air also trembled a bit.

With that Aiko's body stiffens up and turns her eyes towards Hajime, Hajime was staring out and concentrating on something in the far distance. At that moment, Hajime gained information from Yue's group who's on the ground.

[Che, with this timing. …..well, in a sense it's convenient…...]

After a while, Hajime glances back at Aiko while clicking his tongue. Though Aiko doesn't know that Hajime has telepathy, but because she knew he had a lot of artifacts, she guessed that he learned something, her glance gave off the impression of wanting to know what was going on.

[Sensei, it's a surprise attack from the Majinzoku*<-Devils*. It seems that sound just now was the outer barrier covering the kingdom being broken to pieces]
[A surprise attack from the Majinzoku!? That means…..]
[Ahh, right now, the Hairihi Kingdom is being invaded. I've just gained information from my companions through "Telepathy". It appears that the Majinzoku also brought along a large army of demons. It's a complete surprise attack]

To Hajime's briefing, Aiko's face becomes pale, [That can't be], was leaked out while shaking her head.

Thats true. First of all, its impossible to not notice an invasion with the amount of forces that was advancing towards the kingdom, the great barrier that surrounds the Kingdom's capital was also strong enough to ward away all average attacks and was unexpectedly stubborn against powerful ones. No one would believe that the 2 biggest hurdles were completely cleared so easily.

[Sensei, first of all we'll temporarily join up with Amanogawa and the rest of the group. Then we'll talk about what to do]
[ye, yes]

Aiko who stiffened up from the tension, is now being held by Hajime's right hand. [Uhya!] A strange voice was leaked out, she wrapped her arms around Hajime's neck to the suddenness of the action.

Then in that moment….

Ka!!

A severe silver light poured in from the outside.

[~!?]

A light as strong as the moonlights rays came pouring into the room, instinctively alarm bells were raised in Aiko's mind.

However, Hajime wasn't shaken at all and proceeded to jump out of the room through the hole he previously made. Aiko screamed while clinging onto Hajime due to the rapid movements, there wasn't any time to worry.

Hajime, it was simultaneous, grabbing Aiko and dashing out of the room before the light completely eradicated the room in the very next moment.

Boba~!!

There wasn't a roaring sound when the room was crushed, it just simply evaporated, scattering into particles. The top of the temple was made of steel, now its become nothing more than particles much finer than sand, it was then blown away due to the night wind and disappeared into the sky.

To the specific phenomenon, Hajime while using "Aerodynamic" to stand in the air, opened his eyes wide and muttered.

[.....Was that…..decomposition?]
[Nicely answered, irregular]

To his short muttering came an unexpected answer, a voice resembling the ringing of a bell, however, it was cold and void of all emotions.

When Hajime turned his glance to where the voice sounded, there, a woman with silver hair and blue eyes glared at Hajime from the nearby rooftop. Hajime, then guessed that this was the woman that kidnapped Aiko.

In the first place, though unlike Ririana's description she wasn't wearing a nun's habit, instead, this woman was clad in a completely white dress and armor. The dress was sleeveless and only went up to knee height, her arms, legs, and head were clad in protective armor, and a metallic plate hung on both sides of her waist. Its the figure of a warrior no matter how you look at it. Exactly like a Valkyrie.

The silver haired woman, leaped through the air as if gravity had no hold of her. And, in one rotation positioned herself infront of the moon, a pair of silver wings expanded behind her back.

~basaa~ the wings expanded, it appears that the silver wings were shrouded in a silver-light magic. With the moon behind her, she looked mysteriously divine as her silver hair drifted in the wind, she carried beauty and charm that was out of this world.

However, unfortunately if not for her eyes. Despite her immense beauty, only her eyes gave off a cold impression as if frozen in ice. Not the coldness of hating another being. it was exactly like a single-minded mechanical tool. It was the eyes of a doll.

The silver haired woman, while looking down on Hajime with Aiko being held closely, slowly extended both arms out horizontally.

Then, the gauntlets shined momentarily, in the next moment, a large white sword was gripped in both hands. The large swords were nearly 2 meters in length and it was also clad in a silver-light magic, the silver haired woman who seemed unaffected by its weight, calls out to Hajime without an ounce of feelings.

[I am Nointo. I am “God’s Apostle”, for my master, I will remove all unnecessary pieces]

A declaration of war. The woman that introduced herself as Nointo, in the truest sense, she is “God’s Apostle”. Finally, it seems they’ve decided to intervene with Hajime. To directly remove us from “god’s game”.

Silver magic gushes out around Nointo. A huge pressure attacked Hajime and Aiko, it was as if they were standing underneath a huge waterfall.

Though Aiko was trying to endure it desperately, her expression turns blue then white, her body starts trembling uncontrollably. [We’re finished] nearly losing her consciousness, a bright red magic surrounded Aiko. The bright red magic shined even more to protect Aiko, it completely blocked out the pressure that Nointo released.

Aiko opened her eyes widely, she turned her face to Hajime who she assumed was the cause. Then, there, without even shaking one bit, he received the pressure, she saw Hajime’s appearance who was bearing his teeth ferociously.

As he received it, Aiko’s skeptical gaze was no longer on his mind, Hajime, just like Nointo, declared war.

[Kill me if you can, puppet of God]

With those words as the signal, at an altitude of 8,000 meters in the sky over **[**Kamiyama**]**, “God’s Apostle” and the “Monster” that rose out from hell clashed with one another.

~~~~~~
~~~~~~

Shortly before Nointo's raid on Hajime, Yue, Shia, Kaori, and Ririana advanced through the royal palace using hidden passages. Their purpose was to take Ririana to Kouki's group.

Originally, it was decided that Yue and them were to rescue Aiko at **[**Kamiyama**]** and also search for the great labyrinth for the Age of Gods magic, because Ririana situation of finding Kouki's group to help with her current situation was a trivial task.

However, in order to ensure Aiko's safety, they needed to make sure that Kouki's group has not been brainwashed, It was necessary to confirm whether they were safe.

Besides, **[**Kamiyama**]** is literally the head temple for the church, even to rescue Aiko, its preferable that they don't cause an uproar, in order to not be noticed, one person would be enough to search for Aiko's place of confinement so Hajime went alone.

Therefore, Yue who remained at the Kingdom's capital, to Kaori who insisted on helping Ririana, decided to tag along because it wasn't that much trouble in the first place.

Still, just in case of emergencies, Teio was put on standby somewhere in the Kingdom. This was because they needed someone to overlook the overall situation of the Kingdom.

As such, Yue's group traveled in the palace through hidden passages, and appeared into a guest room. Behind where they came through, the antique quietly returned to its natural spot, hiding the passageway as if nothing had happened.

[At this time, everyone is likely sleeping in their own rooms. ……For the time being, lets head for Shizuku's bedroom]

Ririana lowered her voice in the darkness. Then turned to face the direction of Shizuku's room. Rather than relying on Kouki the hero, her evaluation is realistically shown.

Nodding in agreement with Ririana, Shia leads the group because she has the highest perception in the party. Shizuku and the others are currently sleeping in the higher class rooms so they are currently in a separate building*<-or is it wing?*, the group is advancing through the corridors with silent steps as the moonlight seeps through.

And, after advancing a while, it happened.

Zudoooon!!
Pakyaaaan!!

The roaring sound resembled that of a bombardment, right afterwards, the sound of glass breaking could be heard throughout the Kingdom's capital. The air shook and trembled from the impact, the windows in the corridor that Yue's group was taking was also rattling.

[Wawa, what on earth!?]
[This is…..it can't be!?]

Shia while using her rabbit ears to their maximum point in order to hear people who might appear, instinctively covers up both of her rabbit ears while leaking out a voice. Right afterwards, Ririana's face turned pale and she rushed up to the window. Yue and them also approach the window to see what's going on.

And, to the spectacle that greets their eyes…...

[Such a thing…..the great barrier…..it was broken?]

Ririana covers her mouth and says in a shaking voice. It's just as she said, in the night sky of the Kingdom's capital, the great barrier broke into particles of magic and scattered like dust.

Ririana can only watch the spectacle in amazement, a light flashed at that next moment, the roaring sound was heard once again. And, the thin film of light which covered the Kingdom's capital began wavering.

[Even the second barrier….why…..is it so fragile? With this, soon…..]

What is the great barrier that Ririana speaks of, there are three huge magic barriers that defend the Kingdom from foreign enemies. An artifact generates the barrier into three points, magicians of the imperial court pour their magic powers into it regularly in order to sustain the barriers. It's strength has been proven many times, the Kingdom has been defended from the Majinzoku's invasion for hundreds of years. This was one of the reasons why the war is still at a state of standstill.

A barrier of absolute protection was broken down in a single moment. And, just now, the second barrier was also close to breaking. The closer the barriers are to the Kingdom, the stronger they become, but if the second barrier was about to break at any moment now, it's only a matter of time before the last one falls as well. The royal palace is getting noisy, it appears they've noticed that the barrier was broken. Lights begin to flicker on at many places.

[It can't be, an inside job? …...But, giving a hand….to the enemy forces? Just what is going on….]

It was Yue and them who answered Ririana who was too absorbed in the idea while being stunned.

"Do you hear me? Mistress, should I brief you of the situation?"

Their telepathy stones started shining, a voice resounded from it. It's the voice of Teio who was left at the Kingdom's capital. From the way of talking, they've seemed to roughly grasp what's going on.

"N…..please do, Teio"

“Understood. About one kilometer south from the Kingdom’s capital, there are Majinzoku leading a large army of demons. The white dragon from that time is there too. Its breath was what had destroyed the barrier. However, I don’t see the leaders figure”
[It can’t be, an invasion? How, how on earth did they manage to get so close…..]

To Teio’s report, Ririana frowns with a doubtful expression.

Towards that doubtfulness, Yue and them could also imagine it. The rider of the white dragon, Freed Bagua, the Majinzoku from the time where space magic was obtained at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**. Even for Yue, it's virtually impossible to open a “gate” for a whole army to pass through, but if there was some assistance it might be possible.

To actually warp across the entire continent*<-they actually said something about North and South but because i couldn’t understand it i improvised and left it vague* without attracting attention, in order to appear right underneath our noses at the Kingdom’s capital. There is no other way but that. Though the white dragon is attacking, he probably can’t move around much if that were the case, he’s probably resting in the back giving orders.

In the mean time, the sound of glass being broken resounds through the air again. The second barrier was broken. While frustrated, Ririana urges to meet up with Kouki and them. However, Yue shook her head.

[.....We separate here. You guys go on]
[Na, here? what do you…..]

Ririana frowned dubiously and started to say that quickly meeting up with Kouki and the rest and planning their next actions would be best. While Yue was opening the window, her eyes narrowed and spoke of her reason coldly.

[.....The Majinzoku rider of the white dragon hurt Hajime. …..I'm going to beat him until he cries]

Apparently, due to the surprise attack at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]** Yue carried a deep grudge against Freed. All members at the place could do nothing towards Yue's dangerous atmosphere.

[A, are you angry, Yue-san…..]
[.....Shia? Have you already forgotten?]
[No way. I'll continue to beat him even if he starts crying and apologizing]

Though Shia instinctively tsukomied at the angry Yue, towards Yue's words that were expressionless, Shia started saying something even more extreme. From Shia who usually had a bright smile*<-Improvised, something about her smile*, with an expressionless face she powerfully declared her stance. Shia also seemed to not be able to forgive what had happened before.

[And that's why, Kaori-san, Riri-san. Yue and I, in order to discipline the owner of that giant lizard, we'll be leaving here]
[.....N, anyone else who obstructs us as well]

As soon as they said that, both Yue and Shia went out the window without hearing what Kaori and Ririana's had to say. Freed's life is on the line. Escape, Freed! Quickly, run away! is what his companions would have said if they were there.

The night breeze and noise entered through the open window. For a while, Kaori and Ririana stood silently still in place, then they began to advance once again like nothing had happened.

[.....Nagumo-san….is very loved….]
[Yes…insanely.….if not.... they're quite the powerful enemies]
[Kaori….in order to survive, work hard ok? I'll support you]
[Yes. Thank you, Riri….]

Afterwards Riri turned around mutters in a sad voice, [The way I'm treated is becoming more and more crude….], the yell was admirably sent to Kaori. [Actually, would Riri cry if I said that I also wanted to go?] while thinking in the corner of her head, Kaori and Riri quickly hurried towards Kouki and the rest of the group.

Chapter 100: Matchless Shia

To the sudden attack which broke the barrier and appearance of the Majinzoku, the Kingdoms capital has fallen into chaos.

As people start running out of their houses, what greets their stunned faces is the great barrier shattering, to such a site, the patrol groups could only angrily shout, [Don't leave your houses!]. The ones with quick thinking quickly pull themselves together, they attempt to leave the capital with only the bare minimum luggage, meanwhile a significant amount of people gathered at the royal palace gates to seek shelter! Screams were heard.

Although it was late at night, with this amount of noise, it wouldn't be weird for a mob to be formed in the next few minutes. Especially because the royal palace wasn't able to calm down the confusion either. Anyways, right now the royal palace is confused the most about the situation. Especially when everything happened in the flash of a few seconds, by the time they noticed they were placed into a situation where a sword was already drawn before their throats. It's to be expected.

Although they were trying to quickly assemble their army…..

Pakyaaaan~!!

It was not on time.

The last barrier was finally broken, the force of demons that were created through Age of God magic and Majinzoku soldiers surged in on them making the land rumble in the process. Their last defensive line was only a wall made of stone which enclosed the Kingdom's capital. Although that's the only thing, it was still boasted of having considerable strength…….however thinking that it would last very long would be too optimistic.

In order to crush the wall, the Majinzoku assembled multiple people to cast advanced magic. Along with that the demons casted peculiar flame and lightning magic, ice shards and rock shards shot out, and a group of cyclops-beetles which were 4 meter in length started scraping the walls with their maces.

Even at a different location, there were boar typed demons which measured up to 5 meters in length, bashing against the wall with intense force while clad in wind to increase their power, with that, a destruction on the level of an earthquake struck the wall with every impact. Furthermore, the demons with flight such as black eagles and grey dragons were in the skies and completely ignored the wall and continued in to invade the capital.

Though the soldiers that were stationed on top of the wall were fighting back desperately, towards the unexpected large army, their interception was badly carried out. It was as if trying to counterattack a steel train's rush with an airsoft gun.

In such a situation, standing by Teio who was watching the overall situation from the big clock tower in the capital, were Yue and Shia who had just left the royal castle.

[.....Teio, have you found that guy?]
[Teio-san, where's the idiotic guy at?]
[....You guys….no, ma~a, although I understand your feelings? [With everyone gathered together it's much more reassuring!] is what I

remember Princess Ririana saying, shes quite pitiful…..to be discarded so easily]
[.....Don't mind]
[It's a minor thing]

Teio was staring at Yue and Shia with an amazed expression, the 2 didn't seem to think much about it at all. This must also be Hajime's influence. they're not interested if they have no opponent.

Yue and Shia both have their eyes opened wide while looking for Freed Bagua, then their telepathy stones reacted. Hajime's voice came from it.

"Oi! Teio! Come over here immediately!"
"Nuo~! Master? What's wrong?"

Due to the unexpectedly strong voice which came from the telepathy stone, Teio who was called instinctively expressed her surprise.

"A dangerous one came out. I want you to take care of Sensei. Otherwise I won't be able to go all out"
"!? Alright, I understand! I'll head over there immediately!"

Teio who recognised that Hajime was fighting an opponent where he needed to be at full power, in an instant used "Dragon Transformation", then quickly dashed towards the target which was 8,000 meters in the sky.

".....Hajime, be careful"
"Hajime-san! Yue-san and I will be going to finish off the demon tamers so don't worry!"
"Ha? Aren't you guys with the Princess….U~uo, that was close! Sorry, it doesn't seem like I'll be able to talk in this situation! Though I don't know what you guys plan on doing, be careful as well"

Though Haime seemed doubtful about what Shia said, due to the intense battle he was in, he had to cut the connection. While protecting

Aiko, the opponent wasn't letting up against Hajime at all, in an instant, Yue and Shia started thinking if they should go and help.

[Yue-san, what will you do?]
[.....If its Hajime then it'll be alright. Teio will be there too. More so, we need to take care of the demon tamer. Also, we can't allow them to break the Age of Gods magic's magic formation]

Right, the reason why Yue came out to the battlefield, though there was also the reason for getting revenge for Hajime, she couldn't just let the other Age of Gods magic bearer, Freed, run around unchecked.

In the case that Freed knew where the great labyrinth at **[**Kamiyama**]** was at, Just like before at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]** he'll likely head there first, Moreover he might destroy the magic formation afterwards. They noticed that monsters and structure of **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]** will gradually be restored, so its possible that overtime everything will be restored, but it's unknown how much time it would actually take. Therefore, Yue who wanted to avoid that at any costs, decided to attack Freed.

In the first place, retaliation was 90% of the reason…..

then, at that time, while on top of the clock tower Yue and Shia noticed, two demons looking like a black eagle at approximately 3 to 4 meters in length, while eyeing Yue and Shia they then dove down to attack from both the left and right.

Ku~eeeeee!!

The black eagles let out a courageous shout and approached, without looking Shia takes out [Doryukken]*<-Her hammer* from the "Treasure Warehouse" and sets it to shooting mode, then without hesitation shot out an exploding slug bullet. Yue as well, without looking just snaps her fingers with her right hand and innumerable wind blades shot out like heavy rain.

Of the two black eagles which were approaching the girls, one's head blew up due to a shock wave, and the other, like being executed by a Guillotine was chopped up into pieces, their tragic appearances fell onto the roof of a civilians house. At that time, the people who were inside the house heard the noise and became extremely nervous from the sound.

After those two were killed, all demons with flight turned around and noticed Yue and Shia. If you looked closely, you'd notice that about a third of them had Majinzoku riding on them. After looking like they were surveying the situation when noticing the two eagles dropping down, understanding that the other party was an Usagininzoku and petite girl, as if looking at an idiot, they snorted at Yue and Shia, then began chanting their magic.

Both Yue and Shia didn't have any intentions to guard the kingdom from the big army, however their purpose was Freed Bagua, it was like trying to leave without permission, there was no other way but to counterattack when being targeted.

For now, Shia says, [We aren't enemies~, just now we were attacked so there was no other choice~], although they were laughing at the foolishness it didn't seem like they had any intentions of stopping their attacks.

The Majinzoku thought the opponent was worthless so they proceeded and left a few friends behind to deal with it, in the next moment, the screams and roaring sound of their last moments resounded out from behind, and when they turned around to see the cause, their eyes became wide in astonishment.

Googaa~aaaaa!!

It was a dragon made of thunder, roaring as it devoured their friends and demons one after another.

To the spectacle, the Majinzoku could only stare in blank surprise. Trying to escape from the thunder dragon, is a Majinzoku desperately trying to get away towards his friends on his demon, stretching out his hand, as if asking for help……however, in the next instant an exploding slug bullet flew through the wind with murderous intent from behind, and the gray dragon and its rider broke into pieces.

The situation just now wasn't understood, although the blood relatives of those who died became ferocious.*Improvised, I don't actually get this line at all, something about blood relations, 魔人族のものか灰竜のものか分からない血肉が先行していた魔人族達にビチャビチャと降りかかる*

The Majinzoku that became stiff, pulled themselves together and prepared to pursue the cause. And, looked for the girls who crushed their companion in an instant. Due to the unexpectedness they began seeing illusions of their own deaths, with the high tension they forgot to even wipe their own sweat as they strained their eyes. And, in front of them appeared Yue and Shia.

However, to them their appearance was completely unexpected. Because, rather than hiding from the group pursuing them, they stayed in the same place, Yue and Shia didn't even bother looking at them. Just like the first time, they concentrated their sights on searching for something outside of the wall. Their backs spoke louder than words.

In other words, they couldn't care less.

The moment they guessed that, the Majinzoku's expressions which were stiff with high tension distorted into anger and rage. While breaking their comrades into pieces, in Yue and Shia's eyes, they were nothing more than pebbles being kicked on the roadside, as a warrior, or due to their pride as Majinzoku being trampled. Heat runs through their entire bodies and their blood boiled.

[Damn you---!!]
[U~ooooooo!!]
[Die--!!]

While consumed by anger, their abilities as soldiers were naturals and they got into their positions, they showed great teamwork. They formed a box on all sides to surround them and then they all shot magic at the same time. The magic of the Majinzoku were excellent. Normally, the scene would cause someone's expression to twist in despair.

However, they were amazed by Yue's bored expression. Then, she flexed her finger like a thin baton.

[.....The difference in ability, you should learn to realize it instinctively]

At the same time that she said those words, all the magic were completely blocked out by the thunder dragon coiling around Yue and Shia like a cocoon. And, the thunder dragon once again opened its jaws like a gate, as if they were committing suicide, they all looked as if they were voluntarily jumping in.

Then expecting that multiple people on the other side would begin chanting magic which excel in penetration, another part of the thunder dragon opened, there Shia who's Usamimi's were fluttering dove out with the speed of a cannonball.

In an instant, all the nearby Majinzoku knew that she planned to obstruct their chants, so they all casted the beginner class magic flame bullet which practically took no time to cast at all.

However, Shia, as if she didn't even care, dodged all the bullets with simple outbursts from using Doryukken to change her orbit, she then swung Doryukken sideways aiming at the three Majinzoku who were chanting.

[Ri~ya~aaaaa!]

With one shout. Doryukken which was held, due to gravity magic obtained the weight of 4 tons on momentary impact. With that, her body was also strengthened through physical reinforcement. The result was better off unsaid. The three Majinzoku's upper bodies were blasted away, even the demons that were being ridden, their spines were crushed due to the shockwave and they were blown away while raising the screams of their last moments.

Shia who was still in the air, in that instant cut down Doryukken and her own weight to 5 kilos or less, and again, danced through the air like a feather. Then, switching Doryukken back into shooting mode, exploding slug bullets were let loose aiming at the Majinzoku's that shot the flame bullets. As intended, once again in the night sky of the Kingdom, bright red flowers bloomed.

Shia, she pulls out 2 colorful disks which shot out into the air from the "Treasure Warehouse", they floated in the air disregarding gravity and was being used as a stand. She looked over the surroundings while in place, tapping Doryukken on her shoulder.

Just then, in a place a little away, the last Majinzoku left was about to desperately commence a suicide attack on Yue.

[Little girl(..)ga~aa!! I'm gonna kill you!!]

With bloodshot eyes, and a, even if I'm stabbed! kind of feeling could be felt from his desperation. However, Yue's attitude towards him was cool like a wet blanket.

[.....You're 300 years too early, boy(..)]

He probably planned on attacking when the thunder dragon was still dealing with his friend. However, his lips distorts when he thinks that what Yue's words meant was that the thunder dragon had already returned, immediately after that, his head was cleanly cut off by a wind

blade that came from below and it flew into the alleyway with spinning eyes.

After time was meaninglessly taken, Yue began to search for Freed once again. Next to her, Shia landed while carrying Doryukken.

[They completely think that we're part of the Kingdom's fighting forces right?]
[.....It doesn't matter. They can think that if they want]
[How dry. ….Ma~a, it certainly seems that way….]

The two joked around with each other as Freed was not easily found, Maybe, he's already gone to the great labyrinth through space magic…….they began to become uneasy, then,

[~!? Yue-san!]
[N~]

At the same time as Shia's warning, Yue jumped away from the clock tower without hesitation. Immediately after that, an oval film appeared in the middle of air, a large aurora gushed out from it. The aurora completely erased the upper part of the clock tower where Yue and them were standing, however it was so powerful that the building was blown off radically.

[As expected, some kind of foresight. How annoying…..]

At the same time that the masculine voice resounded, the Majinzoku, Freed Bagua who had red hair and was the white dragon's rider, appeared from the oval film. From his expression, you could see irritation from the ease of dodging the surprise attack.

Then a white dragon's appearance came through the "gate", along with several Majinzoku riding on the back of black eagles and grey dragons appearing by the hundreds, Yue and Shia were completely surrounded.

At the same time…...a terrible roaring sound is heard and a part of the outer wall was finally destroyed, afterwards demons and Majinzoku's invade the capital one after another, some of the troops saw Yue and Shia and rushed up fiercely at them. It appears that they intend on completely killing Yue and Shia here once and for all.

[I can't believe that you've managed to survive from that situation. …..As I expected, that man's passion to survive…...is too dangerous. To start with, we'll completely kill you who is that guy's companions]

Towards the words of Freed which contained hatred, however, Yue and Shia were both fearless. And, they both replied back at the same time. It strangely, was the same words that the boy whom they loved currently in the sky 8,000 meters above the ground had said.

[[Kill us if you can (please)]]

As if those words were a signal, the surrounding demons and Majinzoku's shot magic all at once.

Flame spears of the caliber which was enough to even scorch the atmosphere were flying around, lasers of water were shot out cutting through space, wind of murderous intent became blades and attacked, a bombardment of ice and snow roared out, sands of petrification and permanent poison scatters about, and a whip of thunder shaped like a snake moved around in the night sky. And, an Aurora tore through the sky just in case.

A group of 40 Majinzoku or more and over 100 demons. In every direction, lies an enemy. The sight is filled with a storm of attacks.

However, Yue and Shia, were still calm despite being surrounded by death on all sides, their postures showed no sign of attempting to dodge. Some Majinzoku, [Have they given up……], as their expressions showed that they were losing momentum, only Freed raised his

awareness because of an unpleasant presentiment which rose intensely from within.

["Field Pierce"*I think? 界穿*]

Yue activated her Age of Gods magic.

Immediately after that, two shining gates appeared before the Aurora. Freed dubiously drops his eyebrow. When connecting the gate to such coordinates, even if they teleport the aurora, it'll likely appear out of the other gate for a direct hit.

However, that expectation, could only be assumed if only one pair of gates were created. Freed based his expectation on his own limitations.

Therefore, he couldn't understand why Yue and Shia jumped through the gate, it wasn't possible for him to notice immediately that a gate had already appeared behind them.

[Cra-, evade it!]

Yue and Shia disappeared through the other gate, the moment when the aurora connected with the gate, though Freed who noticed his misunderstanding warned his companions, but it was already too late.

Although Freed himself was able to evade on time, many subordinates behind him (.....) while being directly hit by the aurora became slightly conscious that they were dying, and with that only a few were left.

[Curse you, killing my subordinates. ……I didn't expect you to be able to open 2 at the same time….does that mean I've still underestimated you……]

Rage filled his eyes, at the same time, he was also in awe that Yue was able to create both gates simultaneously and properly succeeded to use it in combat. There was also no traces of chanting or using magic

formations either, though he confirmed their true nature in his mind, right now, it's necessary to look for the 2 missing people.

[Freed! Over there!]

One of Freed's subordinates pointed outside the outer wall. Certainly Yue and Shia were there.

It was difficult to fight as houses were right underneath them. If Freed truly hopes for a confrontation between them, it would be unlikely that he would just continue invading the Kingdom's capital, and so he would transfer himself directly outside of the outer walls. Of course, it would be an emergency situation if he actually continued his invasion instead of confronting Yue and Shia, as the sickle of the death god would surely swing down on his back.

Because Freed also understood this, he couldn't turn his back against them. Yue stretched her right hand out and with her finger ~Kui Kui~ bent it as gesture to approach, from this action, all Majinzoku's rage exceeded their boiling point.

It was obvious that the young girl with a childish appearance was provoking them, and the detestable Usagininzoku who slaughtered their comrades was also there, with that in their minds, [We'll be your opponents], while lining up their sights….the provocation wasn't possible to ignore due to their own pride as the superior race even if the opponents were few in numbers.

[You're only a little girl!]
[You dirty beast, don't get so full of it!]

While shouting such abusive words, all the Majinzoku attacked at the same time. They sent the demons after Yue who was able to fire off fatal magic in rapid succession without time lags at all. From the ground, part of the large army also attacks Yue and Shia fiercely.

Shia, thanks to the “Treasure Warehouse”, was able to continuously fire out explosive slug bullets which were practically unlimited in number. In the sky, and even on the ground, Shia’s magical power emits a color resembling moonstones, rippling out, in the next instant, it was converted into a shockwave and destruction scattered everywhere. The only thing that remained were only their broken corpses, crushed as if they were ran over to death.

And, there, the white dragon and grey dragons all vomited out their breaths at once. The attack would be fatal to Shia even with physical strengthening applied when hit directly. However, Shia wasn’t panicking at all.

[“Exceeding Curse”*<-unsure, original text 絶禍*]

Yue shot out a black swirling globe which appeared before Shia’s eyes. The jet black sphere contained supergravity, just like a black hole, the aurora’s approaching Shia were twisted then completely devoured.

[Ku, you used it last time too. …..that Age of God magic that I don’t know of. All members,listen! I’ll take care of the blond caster! You all gang up and kill that Usagininzoku! Separate them apart, don’t allow them to cooperate!]
[[[[[Understood!]]]]]

It appears that, Shia serves as Yue’s vanguard and while away looked like she was breathing exhaustively, the rear guards decided to separate Yue in order to defeat them both. Though that’s what it seems, when Shia started to evacuate towards Yue, the Majinzoku riding an especially huge black eagle which was clad in a huge tornado, charged out like a cannonball.

Shia who was in the air, wielded Doryukken and looked as if she was going to throw it, due to the unexpected timing, the Majinzoku prepared themselves in a suicide attack, the other side wasn’t supposed to be able to respond on time. With one rotation while in place using the outbursts

from Doryukken, all attacks coming from the Majinzoku were stopped and they were all blown away radially.

In a rush, the Majinzoku on the black eagle cladded in a tornado tried to confront her, as expected there was no time for her to counter the attack, even evading wouldn't be on time either, so she took up Doryukken as a shield and increased her physical power as well. One of Doryukken's gimmicks activated, while making a sound ~Kashun Kashun~ a round shield formed.

[Even if it's just you! I'll definitely kill you without fail!]

the Majinzoku with short blond hair shouted out, while looking at Shia with eyes filled with hatred from his companions being killed, and collided with Doryukken which was held up.

Shia who was pushed back was separated from Yue, although she tried to increase her weight to withstand the push, before it was actually carried out, a black teleport gate had already opened up behind her. In that instant Yue and Shia's glances overlapped, the rash suicide attack was meant to buy time for Freed to cast his space magic.

"Yue-san! I'm sorry! We've been separated!"
"N…..there's no problems. I'll kill this fellow here."

Immediately before being pushed into the gate, Yue with a thumb sticking up said, [Good luck*<-in an american accent*!], Shia smiled a little from that. The smile was seen by the Majinzoku riding the huge black eagle, his face twisted into rage, although he didn't really mind Shia, It was Yue's own comrade that was swallowed into the gate, which meant that they were now both separated.

[That frivolously smiling face, how disgusting. When your Limbs are torn apart we'll drag them in front of your man]

The first Majinzoku that passed through said while exiting the gate. Seeming unlike the rest of the Majinzokus, Shia guessed that it was due to a personal grudge, while frowning dubiously she asked him.

[.....Have we met somewhere? I don't remember having done anything to receive such stares though?]
[Do you still remember that Majinzoku woman with red hair?]

Shia who couldn't understand why the sudden talk of a woman turned up could only incline her head in wonder. But, the male Majinzoku, took that act as not being able to remember, while clenching his teeth together, he voiced out further information about his grudge.

[You bastard, the woman that you guys killed at **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]**]
[.....Ah! That person!]
[You bastard~]

It was very clear that Shia had forgotten all about it until now, the man who was already mad till the boiling point shot out numerous blades of wind with short chants. There, Shia avoided them as if they were nothing.

[Wait a sec, who was that person to you? With just what was said a while ago I still don't understand]
[Cattleya, the woman that you guys murdered…..was my fiancee!]
[! Ah, I see…..what about it]

Shia nodded as she consented.

It seems that the man in front of her, was the lover that the woman at **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]** whispered her love to for before dying-------it was Mikhail*I think the K is supposed to be silent?*. Though she doesn't understand how he found out, he knew that Hajime was the one that had killed his fiancee, he looks as if he's burning with revenge. To make

Hajime feel the same feelings that he did, he plans to bring both Shia and Yue's corpses forth in front of him.

[How dare you, Cattleya…...was wise and gentle, she always thought of her country…..]

Mikhail who was shouting out his grudge with bloodshot eyes, Shia's usual brightness became cold as if it were a lie, and replied with extremely light words.

[I don't know anything about that]
[Wh, what was that!]
[No, if she didn't want to die she could have just not fight? In the first place she was the one that challenged us. Hajime-san even warned her. We won't chase if you run away. If a important person was killed, it's obvious that they'd bear a grudge….even if you told what the person who was killed was like…...we're not interested…...do you guys hear me? Just like all the lives of the ones that you've taken up till now…..there's no way you'd be interested]
[Sh, shut up, shut up, shut up! Cattleya's enmity*or enemy, whichever floats your boat*! I'm going to torment you until you go mad, then kill you!]

Mikhail, yelling as if he lost his temper, another tornado was produced again to increase the huge black eagle's speed while plunging towards Shia. It appears that the tornado was Mikhail's magic and not the huge black eagle's inherent ability. While riding, Mikhail continued chanting and numerous wind blades shot out from the tornado in an attempt to block Shia's escape routes.

Shia, wielding Doryukken, knocked down the wind blades and then lightened her weight as she jumped to a disk as a stand in order to avoid the charge of the tornado cladded eagle.

However, before she avoided it, troops of Majinzoku riding black eagles gathered as Shia and Mikhail were talking. Because Mikhail was riding the huge black eagle, they were likely his subordinates.

Shia was in a situation where all the black eagle forces that were in the skies shot out needles of stone at her. It was exactly like a downpour of rain. Shia shot out exploding slug bullets to create shockwaves in order to knock down the needles.

And, jumped to a nearby black eagle after opening a way through the barrage. Disregarding the startled Majinzoku, she swung Doryukken without any hesitation. The Majinzoku that was hit vanished into the darkness of the night as all his internal organs and bones were crushed.

Shia further continued to use her momentum of the attack and crushed the Majinzoku and the black eagle that were away from the rest.

[Ku, do not engage in close combat! The sky is our domain! Attack with waves of magic and stone needles from a distance!]

Towards the comrades that were blown away like a pinball, Mikhail judged that close combat would be impossible and ordered for all attacks to be strictly ranged. Again, Shia was forced to avoid their magic and stone needles that came from all directions by continually jumping off the disks that she sent out as stepping stones.

However, she never got within range to attack, every time she moved up they distanced themselves and she was becoming irritated at that fact. And then, she judged that it wouldn't be efficient if she only used exploding slug bullets, she pulled out a new item from the "Treasure Warehouse".

It was a red metallic ball. It was approximately 2 meters in diameter. A chain extends from the metallic ball and Shia attached it to the top of Doryukken. Then, she used her leg to kick up the metallic ball that was

dropping due to gravity and swung horizontally at the metallic ball with Doryukken.

Gagin~!!

With a roaring sound the metallic ball flew out at an unbelievable speed.

While panicking the targeted Majinzoku tried to quickly evade it, however suddenly, the side of the metallic ball bursted out and with that it's course changed. The Majinzoku and his black eagle were not able to respond to the suddenness, the metallic ball which weighed up to 10 tons collided into them, they were instantly killed as every bone in their bodies were crushed in the night sky.

Shia pulled back the chain with Doryukken and the metallic ball which just slaughtered its enemy quickly returns to her reach. And as it was returning she was firing out exploding slug bullets in rapid successions in order to keep the others in check, or, simply to kill them. When the metallic ball returned, it was then once again launched at another target.

Right, what is Doryukken's newest gimmick, it's basically "Kendama"*A certain Japanese toy* with a built-in system that allows it to change its weight and shoot out shells in order to change its trajectory.

[Uriyaaaaaaaa~!]

Shia continued to play kendama in the night sky of the Kingdom's capital while letting out shouts. When the ball was sent off, its trajectory was always changing and it always returned after blowing away its target. The "Kendama" became a red meteor that shot out irregularly throughout the night sky, it began to turn even more red as the blood of enemies were smeared on it.

[Curse you, such strange techniques! Above! Attack her from outside of her range!]

Mikhail, while biting his lips from his subordinates being killed one after another, gave out orders for a barrage of attacks to be sent out in order to keep her in check and buy time for him to cast his own magic. Shia easily avoids the attacks as if dancing in the air weightlessly.

Then, Immediately after avoiding the last attack, ranged attack magic poured down over her head like a wall.

Shia held the center of Doryukken over her head and began to turn it in circles. With that, the metallic ball that was connected by its chain also began to rotate due to the centrifugal force and was swung along with Doryukken. Doryukken and the Kendama rotated at high-speeds with intense force, it became an improvised roundshield which was also bordered with a red color, the magic attacks that were pouring down were all blown away and dispersed because of the matchless force.

[You're mine!]

Mikhail who judged that she would be too busy dealing with the overhead attacks, charged at Shia. The huge black eagle shot out an extraordinary amount of stone needles which ran along with the wind magic "Cannon Emperor"*<-good chance this skill name is wrong, 砲皇*. The local storm raised a howl as it rushed towards Shia.

Shia allowed herself to free-fall in order to reduce her altitude quickly and avoided the bombardment of wind. Mikhail's lips twisted as expected, again he decided to aim for the moment when she lands due to evading, he planned to shoot out more blades of wind.

However, In the eyes of Mikhail who was watching his target, Shia did not have an expression wrapped in despair, the spectacle that he saw was that an fist sized iron ball appeared from thin air underneath Shia's feet and she bounced off it.

Shia took out the iron ball from the “Treasure Warehouse” and used her legs at maximum strength to launch herself off of it. The iron ball that was kicked out at an overpowering velocity, with perfect aim, hit the Huge black eagle which Mikhail was ridding! The vivid sound of flesh caving in could be heard.

Kuueeeeeeee~!!!

The huge black eagle screamed from the pain of the impact as it falls while spinning. Mikhail again, shot out a cannonball of wind that contained stone needles in desperation as he fell with the huge black eagle.

Shia who finally passed by all magic attacks that came down at her head, bounced away the quickly approaching cannonball of wind using Doryukken. However, the needles made of stone couldn’t be completely avoided, some of the needles pierced into her shoulder and arm.

[We did it! she was struck by Kotorisu’s stone needles!]
[With this it’s over!]

The needles themselves didn’t deal much damage, however all the Majinzoku looked equally joyful that Shia was hit by the stone needles.

Shia looked at their suspicious expressions.

The answer to her question was answered immediately. Starting from where the needles were sticking out, she began to petrify. It appears that Kotorisu was the name of the huge black eagle, it’s inherent magic seemed to allow its stone needles to petify upon contact. it was an unpleasant and troublesome ability.

Normally, when afflicted with an abnormal status you’d use specific medicine to cure it, or purify it with recovery light magic. However, right now Shia is alone on the battlefield so the Majinzoku’s thought it

was already over. As long as they continue attacking her without giving her a chance to take medicine she'll be completely petrified.

However, in the very next moment, their expressions which were convinced of victory, changed into one that was dumbfounded, and finally changed into despair.

Because…..

[Mmm~, what a blunder. However, if its just this much!]

While saying so, Shia pulled out and threw away the needles and in order to concentrate she closed her eyes. Then in one moment, the petrification that was gradually spreading, stopped suddenly, following that, the flesh that had turned to stone regained its former color. And, finally, the wound from the needles were also patched up, she returned to her normal state as if nothing happened.

[W, Why!]
[What's going on!]

There wasn't any signs of recovery magic being used, there also wasn't any behaviors of using medicine either, however Shia easily cured the petrification and damage from the needles by just concentrating a little, fear began to appear on the Majinzoku's expressions. A fear of the unknown which couldn't be understood. Their voices were upset and trembling.

There's no need to think much about how Shia managed to heal herself. She simply used reproduction magic. As usual, her aptitude with it was rather bad, it was only enough to be able to heal wounds and abnormal statuses within her body.

Her self heal was like the downgraded version of Yue's "Automatic Reproduction", she can even cure serious illnesses, however it's not automatic and she cannot reproduce something external. However, a

few wounds or simple fractures would heal within several seconds with a little bit of concentration and if she spends more time she can also recover from serious illnesses.

There's no helping it that the Majinzoku were despairing. Because including her overwhelming power she also possesses the ability to recover, they couldn't think of any methods to corner her. The eyes that were looking at Shia were the same eyes that the people who confronted Hajime had. In other words, a monster! Then.

[Sa~a, here I come?]

Shia while holding Doryukken quickly appears before the eyes of the stiff and confused Majinzoku. Then, a deadly blow! with just one hit, another Majinzoku died. At that moment, the remaining Majinzoku went into panic and yelled out an incomprehensible cry, there was absolutely no cooperation and they began to suicide attack recklessly.

Shia calmly, while brandishing the Kendama, or through the use of exploding slug bullets, quickly and surely reduces their numbers.

Finally the last man of Mikhail's forces became food for Doryukken, however the moonlight was suddenly shut out and a shadow covered the entire area.

Shia looked up above, behind the dark clouds, Mikhail was falling from the sky. It looks like the huge black eagle was also at its limits, a straight dive attack might have been all it was capable of now.

[Innumerable thunder pouring down from the sky, avoid it if you can!]

At the same time that Mikhail shouted, innumerable amounts of thunder poured down while roaring out disorderly. It was like an intense rain of thunder. This magic originally caused a very large thunder strike to fall from the dark clouds, an advanced attack magic "Thunder Mallet" of the wind system, he daringly multiplied it, he likely created it as an Area of

Effect magic. With that alone, you could tell how advanced Mikhail was with magic.

The thunder quickly overtakes Mikhail and pours straight down towards Shia.

Most likely, in order to absolutely kill her, he took up the resolution to stab her despite his own thunder raining down as a suicide attack. He's already used up a lot of power just multiplying the thunder, however superhuman Shia may be, she's not fast enough to avoid the thunderbolts.

The speed of which thunder falls is 150 kilometers per second. It's not possible to avoid it after recognizing it. In Mikhail's eyes, as his subordinates were killed one after another he was enduring it while single-mindedly continuing his chant using all the magic power in his body, this time for sure, she'll fall! His will of strength could be seen.

However, immediately afterwards, Mikhail saw an unbelievable scene. Unexpectedly, Shia had avoided the thunderbolts raining down. No, more accurately, it was as if she knew exactly where the area that wouldn't be hit was and moved there before the thunderbolts fell.

It was Mikhail's miscalculation. Shia had a technique that allowed her to avoid things even before it became recognizable.

A deviation of her inherent magic "Future Sight" and "Revelation Sight". It allowed her to see up to 2 seconds into the future. Although it's a downgraded version of her "Future Assumption" sight, rather it doesn't even use magic power, it's a convenient ability that can be used in rapid successions several times. It was the result of Shia's efforts from continuously training.

[What are you, what exactly are you!]
[.....I'm just a rabbit eared woman]

He couldn't believe what he saw, Shia had avoided every thunderbolt, naturally, Mikhail's attack while diving down can easily be fended off, she wielded the Kendama and waited for him to pass by.

Then, the Kendama circled greatly around Mikhail, the chains coiled around him and he was instantly restrained.

[Nuguo~o! Let go!]
[I'll release you, just as you wished!]

Mikhail who was caught by the chain was flung by Doryukken, as he was freed the centrifugal force caused him to fly towards the ground. The centrifugal force caused by the heavyweight lump of iron was terrific, Mikhail was flung towards the ground like a meteorite.
At once, he set up a barrier of wind and escaped instant death, however it's likely that every bone in his body was crushed as he layed on his back without moving an inch. ~Gobog Gobo~ he coughed out blood.

Shia landed by his side.

Carrying Doryukken on her shoulder, she had compromised Mikhail. Mikhail while still faintly conscious, his vacant eyes turned to Shia. On his lips, due to being unable to bring down his enemy, or, due to the impossible situation of being completely annihilated despite having close to 100 subordinates, a smile of self-ridicule that even Mikhail himself didn't understand was shown. To be beaten down into this state, it's possible he could do nothing but laugh at himself.

To Shia who was looking down on him, Mikhail realizes his end. In his heart, he apologized to his dear fiancee that he couldn't take revenge, then he spoke his last words.

[....Goho~, this….goho~.....monster!]
[Fufu, Thank you very much!]

Mikhail's last retaliation seemed to only have made Shia more pleased.

At last, while watching absentmindedly as the hammer was swung down at his head, Mikhail thought that if there was an afterlife, he would go and search for Cattleya, he lost consciousness as he was thinking such dark things.

While carrying Doryukken after giving the final blow, Shia's cheeks are loosened because of Mikhail's final words.

[It seems that finally I've become strong enough to be called a monster….fufu, it seems I've become closer to Hajime and them. Now then, how about Yue-san's side…..]

Shia looked towards Yue's direction, they've been considerably distanced. And, even now she expected that she might still be able to give Freed one good hit, she began to dash out to join up with Yue.

Chapter 101: Matchless Yue

The shining moon became invisible behind the crowd of ash dragons.

There's likely over 100 figures that could be seen. And at the center of it all is the white dragon, the appearance of Freed Bagua could be seen riding it's back.

[Don't think less of us. Dividing up the enemy forces is a standard technique in battles]

Shia and Mikhail had just disappeared into the transfer gate "Field Pierce" made through space magic. Then Freed ordered the black eagle force to pursue them, as they passed by they glared and trash talked Yue who was stationary.

Although there wasn't any signs of wind magic being used at all, to the appearance that floats in the skies just like the moon that floats in the

nocturnal sky, a smile appeared even when their reactions were heard, Yue is only quietly staring at Freed expressionlessly.

Freed is a proud Majinzoku, rather than looking at others equally, they're looked down upon. He is a pious believer in their Majinzoku God whom they worship, he's the type of man that would not accept any other way of life or values.

Hence, it was impossible that he would have an interest in a woman from another race. However, that Freed is now, while the ash dragons and his subordinates were still blocking the true moon, to the girl with a pretty face that shines just like the moon, felt charmed with the thoughts "It would be regrettable if such a gem were killed".

With those thoughts, although he understands it's necessary to kill Hajime, and though he holds hatred because his brethren were killed, still, foolish words came out of his mouth.

[How regrettable. …..Woman, as a spellcaster, no matter how much I want the ability to cast magic without chants, though this may be reckless in this situation. How about it? Will you join me? We won't treat you badly just because you're a woman]

Towards Freed's invitation, Yue's reply was….

[.....Fu~, come back after being reborn. Ugly man]

It was indescribably severe, a reply of severe sarcasm mixed with ridicule was returned.

By the way, it wouldn't be an exaggeration that Freed's figure if evaluated by ten people, every one of them would agree that he was a good-looking man. Combined with his vast powers, he was extremely popular to the Majinzoku women. Therefore, he's not an ugly man at all.

However, Yue saw Freed's desolate expression at the **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]** when he talked about his god, in her memory it was awful and sickening. Such a man, invited her with a clarified face. The only thing seen was already just a sickening foolish man. To begin with, she doesn't feel anything for any other man but Hajime, so it was nothing but foolish talk to begin with.

When Yue's response was heard, Freed's eyes twitched and cramped up.

[Have you chosen your path as a martyr? Or, because of your loyalty to this country? Discard your teachings, do not simply follow a country in blind faith, do you plan on sacrificing your life for those kinds of things? That is the highest reaches of stupidity. Once you know of our god, "Aruvu-sama's" teachings. Then, you'll be purified after just closing your eyes just once!?]

To Freed who began blabbering on about unrelated topics, Yue simply answered by rapidly firing out Wind Blades. It was merely because she couldn't endure hearing him babble on any longer.

A spray of blood dances on the evening winds. Because Freed managed to dodge his body, the Wind Blades that Yue shot out only managed to cut his shoulder shallowly. Immediately, Freed was able to react to the Wind Blades, he was definitely one of the few great people who conquered a labyrinth. If not, he would have lost an arm immediately.

To Freed who was glaring at her with anger, Yue only returned it with a cool gaze. Then, she announced to the foolish looking demon leader.

[.....Your question is unnecessary. The moment you hurt Hajime, you were already sentenced to death in agony]

As if the words were a signal, extremely cold ice and snow blew around Yue.

It instantly turned into a huge tornado, it climbed up towards the heavens as it surrounded Yue. A white storm which connected the heavens to the ground, the surrounding temperature is quickly reduced to absolute zero, the ash dragons which were blocking the moon were completely frozen.

This was a compound magic of ice at a superlative degree in the system attack magic “Frozen Prison” along with the intermediate wind system attack magic “Storm Emperor” which created a wide range tornado at absolute zero temperatures.

Almost like a mammoth being frozen instantaneously due to the climate change that brought upon the glacial epoch, the ash dragons all died without damage to their exterior, they fell and crashed onto the ground, breaking their bodies into pieces. It appears that their insides were completely frozen as red crystals of blood bounced around on the earth.

[Did you not hear me. …...Guess there’s no helping it. Shoot her down!]

Freed who lost nearly 20 ash dragons instantly, ordered the attack while gritting his teeth. As a result, the ash dragons all deploy together from all directions, top and bottom, they shot out aurora’s disorderly from every direction.

As if they were meteor showers, over 100 aurora’s were shot out in the night sky. The dark night was torn up by the flash of lights, as if the spellcaster in the center was committing suicide, an absolute zero blizzard blew out and raged like a flower pinholder.

From the impact of the countless auroras, the tornado of ice and snow dispersed as if melting in the air. The scattered ice and snow created a spiral, what appeared from the center was the appearance of Yue who was wounded from the powerful blast….actually no, it was an unhurt Yue accompanied by the black swirling star which circled around her.

Without wasting a second, over 100 aurora's were once again seen after they confirmed the small enemy was still there.

However, the matchless lights of death which would normally eliminate everything, one after another is swallowed into the black star that was tossed around by Yue, or bent and reflected outwards towards the horizon, none of them reached her at all.

Yue used gravity magic to further increase her altitude. While being exposed to countless auroras, there is no unrest in her expression at all. "Exceeding Curse" was used to swallow up everything and "Cursed Sky" was used to move the ball of extreme gravity, as if it were a protection satellite orbiting and defending the moon.

[The breaths are uneffective, directly swat her down! Go!]

To Freed's change of strategy, the ash dragons didn't lag behind at all and followed the orders obediently. While releasing the roar of a dragon, murderous intent was shown in its eyes from wanting to tear up the slender girl with its sharp claws and teeth.

They intended to attack in waves. Yue's environment was immediately buried under the gray crowd of ash dragons.

Yue who was being confronted didn't worry at all at the incoming ash dragon's murderous intent, she calmly closed her eyes. While deeply concentrating. It could be said that it was convenient for the ash dragons that she wasn't moving, their claws expand, and their strong jaws spread open.

At the moment where they thought that it would be impossible to escape death, while facing them, Yue's eyes opened up! And then, her lovely thin lips voiced out.

["Beheading Threads*I think? 斬羅*(cut)"]

At that moment, their world shifted in unison (. . .).

Like a mirror which had cracked, countless lines are drawn out in the open space, the lines were purposely made adjacent to the starting point. And then, the ash dragons which were coming in succession into the cracked space, after stiffening for an instant, fell to the ground while hearing the sound of their scattering and spraying blood from their cut body parts that came into contact with the broken space.

Space magic "Beheading Threads". Through cracking space and moving it, it's a no brainer that it's a magic that will cut apart any object.

By Yue's unseeable cutting magic, more than 30 ash dragons died without being able to do anything but scream out their last moments. Freed's expression trembles from the activation of space magic, motion speed, and development scale that were far from what he could do.

[What great ability. ….By chance, are you one of the people chosen by God! If that's so, then you're rejection of my proposal is understandable]

Freed sweats a good amount while nodding in consent, Yue, [This misunderstanding imbecile, it's extremely sickening though….], anyone could understand that she had an unpleasant expression.

[.....What a joke. Whenever I fight, it's always for Hajime's sake. Don't place me in the same group as you]

Towards the harsh words, Freed whose personality holds the gods in high esteem, love and respect, (he couldn't imagine it) and became expressionless. It appears that mentioning that was taboo for Freed.

[Rejoice. I won't be saying anymore than this. We'll kill you and I will throw your corpse in front of that man. If I step on it, it may provoke some unrest. At that time, it would be that man's end]
[....That mouth sure runs a lot. Can't you just show it through your actions while being silent? Ugly man]

Towards the words that subdued his angry rant, multiple veins showed on Freed as he was ridiculed. Just as Yue had said, he decided to show it with actions.

But it was already seen at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**, Freed issued instructions to a small bird-type demon that rode on his shoulder. Then, a part of the crowds of demons that had invaded and broke the outer wall of the Kingdom's capital, surged towards Yue from the ground. It appears that they intend to attack from the ground.

Yue, while protecting herself from the ash dragon's auroras with her gravity ball, summoned the "Thunder Dragon". The golden dragon appeared from the dark clouds in the sky and let out a roar of lightning. It approached as the auroras from the ash dragons and Freed were being restrained by "Exceeding Curse", the thunder dragon was then sent to wipe out the ground troops.

As usual, it was a no brainer that the thunder dragon's mouth sucked in everything…..was what was supposed to happen, but the advance was stopped by 6 pairs of turtle-typed demon Abusodo*<-The demon-type's name, maybe it means something? アブソド* that exceeded 5 meters in length. One of the huge Abusodos opened its big mouth and in reverse, actually started consuming the dragon instead.

Abusodo was also seen before with the Majinzoku woman named Cattleya at **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]**, it's a demon whose inherent magic is able to take in other magic into its body. However, the Abusodo that was consuming the thunder dragon on the ground was a different size from the Abusodo seen in the labyrinth. Most likely, it was improved and strengthened.

Still, as expected of the thunder dragon. Though it's being swallowed by the Abusodo, with its large body, though slowly, it's surely lifting it up. It appears that the limitation of only being able to swallow one type of

magic hasn't been changed yet. Even if the thunder is being swallowed, it cannot swallow the gravity magic.

The 6 Abusodos were gradually floating and they flailed around hastily, before their big bodies were carried off by the thunder dragon, another Abusodo began to swallow the gravity magic. As expected, the thunder dragon couldn't endured the 2 strengthened Abusodo's with their inherent magic "Magic Storing", the body of the thunder dragon was consumed.

Immediately after that, the compressed magic was launched at Yue.

[.....Annoying]

Just like an anti-aircraft homing missile was launched from the ground, it accurately attacked Yue. Yue who was using the gravity ball to the best of her abilities to block the ash dragons and white dragon's auroras, immediately evaded by "falling" from the sky.

[Fu~, I understood that you used strange thunder system magic. As long as Abusodo is here, your magic will be sealed off]

Freed laughs while grinning. However, Yue isn't particularly worried, only quietly observing the Abusodos, only after a short time, her eyes wandered in the sky while thinking something and then concentrated on them again.

[Are you trying to tear space again? I won't be giving you that kind of time!]

The white dragon and ash dragons further increased the severity of their attacks, a black panther typed demon approached by kicking off the ground and into the sky.

Although the storm of aurora's were blocked by the gravity ball, most of Yue's consciousness was used to construct another magic, her

movements were lacking compared to before. There, the appearance of the black panther approached quickly from the ground, it began releasing countless tentacles*lol there always needs to be some kind of tentacle monster when against a girl*, furthermore, its sharp claws also bypassed the gravity ball which was focused on preventing the auroras from hitting.

Between offense and defense, countless wounds appear on Yue's body, red blood splashes in the night sky. However, because it was only a flesh wound, it wasn't much of a problem. To begin with what is Yue's true defensive powers, certainly not barriers nor gravity balls. It was the cheating "Regeneration Power".

A barrier would be placed if there was a companion, or evaded if the attack will cause clothes to tear because it would be a nuisance, originally she would just disregard the other parties attacks and leave it up to her regeneration powers, Yue's true battle style was simply, one-sidedly attacking.

To Yue who was spraying blood, Freed's expression was that of one who was convinced of their victory, when Yue's wound was automatically restored, his eyes could only open widely in astonishment.

[Is that also an Age of God's magic? Just exactly how many have you acquired!]

Although he wasn't completely wrong, while voicing out his misunderstanding to Yue, he gave out orders for all demons to continue attacking until they beat her recovery rate. And then, Freed also started chanting an Age of God's magic.

However, naturally, Yue was already concentrating on her magic previously. Yue's eyes opened up and showed strength, in the space of the thundering roars and flashes, her lovely voice resounded.

["Five Heavenly Dragons"]

Immediately afterwards, dark clouds appear and the thunder roared, the swirling wind turns into a storm and blew harshly, the water currents produced were frozen into ice, a gray cloud of sand took shape like a big snake, and flames strong enough to burn up the atmosphere were condensed.

As a result, the appearance of 5 demonic dragons were seen in the night sky of the Kingdom's capital. Although they were dragons created from gravity magic, they all had their own respective attributes.

Gooaaaaaa~!!!

The 5 dragons roared out greatly enough to make the atmosphere tremble.

The group of gigantic demonic dragons looked divine, the ash dragons probably realized on instinct that they were greatly outmatched and leaked out a small miserable cry in their fright. In their eyes, there's already little to no murderous intent towards Yue, instead fear and shock settled in its place, their eyes glanced over to their master Freed, demanding for help.

Freed once again exposed his disgraceful behavior of having his jaw drop down from the magic that lacked common sense while riding the white dragon. That chance wasn't missed, Yue sent the 5 heavenly dragons to assault the ground troops.

The thunder dragon charged at Abusodo and swallowed it first, Abusodo put up a fight and opened its large mouth as well. Although the thunder dragon was slightly consumed, it was different from a while ago, the blue*<-I think this is supposed to actually be the flame one but no matter what i do, i get blue lol, 蒼龍* dragon dashed out from behind the thunder dragon, when they both collided together, Abusodo melted due to the intense heat.

[Kuaaaaaan~!!]

The pain generated from its shell melting down while still alive caused Abusodo to cry out painfully as its inherent magic was completely bested, the thunder dragon then aimed at another target. It was, another Abusodo that was swallowed by the storm dragon. While letting out a godly roar, it bit into the other dragon where Abusodo was, the edge of its body transformed into ash from being scorched.

Again at a nearby place, the ice dragon is freezing Abusodo and the stone dragon rolled up and caused all surrounding areas to petrify. The storm dragon which was freed by the thunder dragon, advanced onwards and cut the demons such as the black panthers besides Abusodo into pieces.

As expected, using the 5 heavenly dragons was harsh, Yue was panting and her forehead was drenched in sweat. After quickly disposing of the Abusodos, her next target were the ash dragons in the sky.

Freed's group of matchless dragons were similarly challenged by Yue and her dragons. Without a doubt the figures of the ash dragons becoming food to the 5 heavenly dragons could be seen, this seemed to just show the difference in ability between Yue and Freed.

Freed finally realized after coming this far. The shape of a terrible monster which would normally be avoided. It was not just the boy who took heavy damage from the surprise attack at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**, but also the girl in front of his eyes, she was without a doubt someone that he had to risk his life against when fighting.

He was ashamed at himself for becoming arrogant for saying what he had said before the fight.

Therefore, this next magic attack is literally with all of Freed's energy put into it.

[----------World which is always swaying, giant's iron hammer, roar of the dragons, Army of trampling legs, both worlds are never met, hearing rumbles, bringing screams, It's God's sigh! It's God's grief! Thou, be crushed with despair! "Trembling Heaven"!]

The surrounding space rumbles intensely. Sounding lower than a hungry bellies groan, as if the world itself was screaming.

Yue's thoughts, [Mu~!] her cautiousness intensifies as she has knowledge of this magic, a defensive system was immediately thought up. The range of the blast magic was far too wide to evade in time. And all average defenses would be completely broken in an instant.

After canceling the 5 heavenly dragons and the gravity ball, she immediately constructed space magic. This is because she has no room to spare resources on other magics. Yue with the quick use of space magic and simultaneously, the space shrunk momentarily and caused a great explosion.

Space itself exploded. Without a doubt, it was had great force, even the leftover ground troops and ash dragons were obliterated in an instant, it gouged out the earth and even blew away all clouds within the area.

Space magic "Trembling Heaven". Space is forcefully compressed, it's a magic that generates an extremely powerful impact from letting loose the compressed space.

[.....N~, as expected….of Age of God's magic]

However, Yue had survived even though she was at the center of the impact. Her clothes were torn in some places, blood dripped from her mouth, some of her internal organs were probably damaged, however it was all too light compared to the impact that went off.

Her slight injuries were also quickly healed.

Normally, it had enough power to completely wipe out everything without a trace……

The reason was because Yue had used the space magic “Restraining Threads*I think? 縛羅*” before “Trembling Heaven” activated. This was a magic that restores space. In use, it was an convenient magic that could be used for defense and restraining. More so, it’s magic consumption wasn’t at the point of wanting to tear out the whites of ones own eyes out.

The space wasn’t completely restored because it was instantaneously created, though Yue took some damage, other than physical restoration from “Automatic Reproduction”, her clothes were also restored through reproduction magic, her appearance in both the inside and outside were flawless.

At the center of where everything in the surroundings were destroyed, a figure was seen bathing in the moonlight as if nothing had happened at all, it was an amazing combination of divineness and strength.

However, there was one person who didn’t doubt Yue’s strength. He assaulted Yue from a blind spot.

[I knew you would withstand it! Monster disguised as a girl!]

Passing through the gate behind Yue, Freed who rode on the white dragon appeared while shooting out an aurora.

Though Yue evaded the aurora by immediately “falling”, she could not dodge the white dragon’s opened mouth as they intersected, it tried to devour her arm from the shoulder down in one go.

Bushu~! blood gushes out from the wound. The white dragon was unable to completely tear off Yue’s arm, when its sharp fangs sank down onto her soft skin, it tried to shoot out an aurora at point blank.

It seemed to be improvised as Freed continuously shot out great magics, this time he was once again convinced of his victory, he turned to look at Yue in delight. However, the moment he saw Yue's expression, an unspeakable chill ran through Freed's spine, his eyes full of delight turned into fear.

Because, on Yue's lips was a smile in the shape of a perfect crescent moon. Her thin pink lips easily stood out. The smile no longer showed the divineness that was shown awhile ago. The moonlight which shined on Yue, changed into one not of solemnity, but one of devilishness.

Through the night wind, deep red eyes shining brightly between the gaps of her beautiful gold hair could be seen.

In other words

-------You touched me?

and.

The chant of the Age of God's magic was quietly voiced from Yue's mouth.

["Destruction Engraving"*I think? 壊刻*]

Immediately afterwards, in the night sky where the devilish moonlight pours down, the scream of two were simultaneously heard.

[Guuaaaaa~!!]

Kuuruaaan~!!

The white dragon writhed from the impact, this time Yue's arm was completely torn off, However, she didn't have an anxious expression and manipulated gravity magic to go up into the sky. And, in an instant, the appearance of the missing arm returned, she then glared at Freed

and the white dragon that was in agony while gushing blood from their whole bodies.

[.....How is it? The same wounds that Hajime received. Does it hurt?]
[Guuu~! Damn you, this…..]

To Yue who was expressionless and shouldering the moon on her back, Freed grit his teeth in fierce pain and glared sharply back.

Freed and the white dragon's states were severe. The white dragon suffered a hollowed chest through combustion, in addition it was bleeding throughout its entire body, it seemed that it would crash at any moment. As for Freed, he was bleeding slowly from an incision wound on his chest, his left arm was broken and lowered lifelessly, and he was coughing out blood intensely as his internal organs were damaged. In addition there were big and small wounds throughout his whole body.

All of the wounds were the same as the time where Hajime was injured at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**. Reproduction magic "Destruction Engraving"--------a magic that reproduces the wounds and destruction that an object once received in the past. Although not direct nor indirect, if it's not touched within a radius of less than 3 meters it wouldn't work, the wounds that can be reproduced is proportional to the magic power being used.

Yue if possible, wanted to corner Freed with this magic. This fight was personal revenge from Yue to the end. At the **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**, her lover was greatly injured and anger took root in her heart, unable to escape unless revenge was carried out. Since then, [.....The next time we meet, I'll definitely beat the hell out of him], she promised.

And when she obtained the reproduction magic at **[**Merujine*pronounced Merujeene* Undersea Ruins**]**, while remembering the events at **[**Mountain of Great Flames**]**, now that she could, she intended to use "Destruction Engraving" on him. Yue's "Yan*as in Yandere*" whispered out so there was no helping it.

However, Yue was weak in close combat. it would be futile as she wouldn't be able to activate the magic in time before Freed and his white dragon which flew away at high speeds before they could touch. Therefore, she thought she'd have to substantially damage the enemy before she could use it but…..Freed and them purposely touched her instead. There was no helping it that she unintentionally leaked out a smile. To Hajime's enemies, her mind cannot stop the "Yan Yan".

[.....The me right now…..does it mean I wasn't chosen to be the victor this day. …….I was unprepared*I think, something about his resolution*]
[.....I wouldn't let you]

Freed guessed that it was checkmate and grits his teeth, at the time when Yue was about to deal the finishing blow, waves of attack magic that shot from the ground were aimed at Yue.

[Freed-sama! Please pull out at once!]
[We will buy time!]

They were the ground troops that had gone to invade the Kingdom's capital. They seemed to have guessed that Freed was in a predicament and came to rescue him.

[You guys! ….Ku, sorry!]

The Majinzoku's that came to the rescue, after seeing Freed and the white dragon covered in wounds, their eyes borne hatred, they carried out suicide attacks without thinking about defending at all. Naturally, there's no way they could kill Yue with just enthusiasm. However, it seems that the very limited time earned was enough for Freed to open a gate.

Immediately before the flame spear that Yue shot could pierce Freed and his white dragon, they both jumped into the gate and disappeared.

[.....Obstructed]

Yue after Freed successfully ran away, still, [You dare do that to Freed-sama!], coldly looked down at the Majinzoku who attacked repeatedly while yelling the same thing, the space magic “Trembling Heaven” that Freed used awhile ago was used once again. Although Yue completely annihilated their snarling feelings in an instant, you could see some irritation on her expression. Her pent-up anger wasn’t cleared.

While Yue was taking deep breaths to calm herself, an unbecoming bright voice resounded on the battlefield.

[Yue-sa~n! Is that guy still alive? If he’s alive, let me hit him once……uwa~a what happened here? Was there a natural disaster?]

Shia’s usamimi’s*<-rabbit ears* waved as she jumped to the floating disk and asked while looking at the surroundings with an amazed voice.

[.....Fled]

Shia understood roughly what went on from that single phrase, while being slightly surprised at Freed’s unexpected tenacity, she soothed Yue with a wry smile.

And while waiting to replenish their magical powers, they exchanged their information, then an explosion occurred in the corner of the royal palace, following that, a huge pillar of light poured down from the sky, an impossible scene of the large army of demons consisting of tens of thousands that were outside of the outer walls were completely obliterated, then they looked at one another.

[[.....Hajime (San)]]

The two answered at the exact same time.

[.....For the time being, should we go to the royal palace?]
[.....N]

Shia and Yue concluded that the perpetrator of the lack of commonsense was Hajime, they smiled as they glanced at the huge crater where the demons had vanished, together, the two went to the royal palace where Hajime would be.

Chapter 102: God's Apostle, Nointo
Silver wings fluttered under the moonlight.

However, it was not to fly. It was to shoot out magic bullets made out of silver feathers which leaked out murderous intent from the silver wings. The magic bullets of silver held terrifying power along with the ability to continuously fire at will, the darkness was torn up in the sky 8,000 meters above ground, and a great number of flashes of light pours onto it's target.

What stood up against it was a steel weapon which sparked out bright red light. Everytime the monster who crushed all his foes released a roar, the silver feathers that came flying in would scatter tragically and disperse. Although they were well calculated trajectory shots, it's meaningless if they all get knocked down in one blow, a hole was created in the barrage which could be mistaken as a wall. What was needed was the courage to progress. That was how the perfect evasion was carried out.

[Hiyaa~!]

An out of place lovely voice resounded from the situation which gambled their lives. It was Hatanaka Aiko-sensei who couldn't endure any longer and released an improper voice. Hajime used Metsurai*his machinegun* to shoot down the large barrage of silver feathers that "God's Apostle" Nointo shot, Aiko was being held by his right arm and

he continued to dodge at the very last second. She experienced her first dogfight in her life (Flesh and Blood version).

[Sensei! Keep your mouth closed! You'll bleed like crazy if you bite yourself!]
[Even if you tell me tha-aa!? I, I bit myself……]

Hajime's advice was in vain, Aiko immediately had tears in her eyes. Actually no, she already had tears in her eyes at the start of the air battle, so it wasn't only because she bit herself.

Hajime as well, because Aiko doesn't particularly have high physical strength, in order to avoid using intense movements he used "Light Speed*remember he uses it to slow down time and accelerate his thinking process*", he knocked down the oncoming barrage and dodged with minimum movements, however the movements were still more intense than a roller coaster, Aiko was already in a groggy state.

However he couldn't just go ahead and toss her away either. Nointo's merciless attack gave no room for Hajime who was holding Aiko to do that, plus as soon as he threw her, the attacks would likely be aimed at Aiko. Fighting with Aiko behind him could work, however moving together while holding her would be the better choice.

Besides, this situation won't be continuing forever. A reliable companion should be coming to their rescue soon. Hajime used Schlag to shoot down the silver feathers which surrounded them from all directions while evading, Hajime spoke to Aiko who had shut her eyes tightly and was clinging tightly onto him.

[Sensei, hold on for just a bit longer. Right now my companion is heading here. When that fellow gets here, you'll be able to get to the ground]
[Al, alright! But, what about you!?]
[Of course, I'm gonna kill that arrogant person]
[U~u, I'm sorry for holding you back….]

While grinding her teeth, she was aware that she was literally extra baggage. Hajime embraced Aiko closely and performed a somersault. In the inverted world, the silver bombardment passed over Hajime's head. The flash of light erased the upper part of the isolation tower which Aiko had previously been held captive.

Again, a shriek was let out, however it was drowned out by the shockwaves, while pressed onto Hajime's chest, his heartbeat could be heard and wasn't erratic at all, Aiko understood and obtained a strange sense of security from hearing it. Really, what am I thinking about in this situation, she rebutted herself however she gave in and clung onto Hajime with even more strength.

[Don't worry about it. I've expected an unreasonable situation since the beginning]
[! Wa, you'd go that far…...just for me…..]

Of course, Hajime meant that in the sense of colliding against the church for the Age of God's magic, not in the sense of helping Aiko…..Just that, Aiko who was drunk from the situation splendidly misunderstood its meaning. And, in a situation where she was being embraced and protected further increased her misunderstanding. It's necessary that she wake up quickly.

[.....So you still have room to talk, irregular]
[Nuguo~o!?]

Immediately after the exchange of silver bombardments and barrage of silver feathers, a mechanically cold voice sounded out within striking distance of Hajime's side. At once, he used his artificial arm to shoot out behind himself from the elbow, he also used the recoil to turn himself around. What jumped into his eyes was, one large sword used to defend the attack, and the other large sword was swung sideways. The large sword was 2 meters in length, 30 centimeters in width, and cladded in silver light, just being there was enough to make you feel a sense of

overwhelming intimidation being released from it. And, its ability that it bears is also quite merciless. After all, it was clad in the silver inherent magic “Decomposition” that Nointo used. It would be against the rules to even touch it.
However, even if he knew that, he couldn’t perform any unreasonable movements because Aiko was still there, Hajime immediately used Schlag to hit the center of the large sword to divert its trajectory and allowed himself to fall back backwards, with that he just barely managed to dodge it. The large sword passed by and grazed his bangs which caused him to break out in cold sweat.

He instantaneously used his artificial arm, Schlag, and “Vajra”, the azanthium managed to hold off against the “Decomposition” but, it’s inevitable that it would take damage every time they came into contact. This time around, Schalg’s surface was scraped down slightly. If the same thing is done over and over again, it’ll probably be destroyed quite fast.

Nointo didn’t stop the centrifugal force caused by the large sword, while rotating the moonlight was reflected and caused her silver hair to glitter beautifully, she then turned to Hajime and brought down her sword that she used to block the bullets. With immense power the speed of the sword already far exceeded the commonsense of its large frame.

Once again, Hajime shot out a shell from his artificial arm to fend off the large sword and used it’s recoil to rotate, he then pointed Schlag’s muzzle at Nointo and pulled the trigger 3 times. Three flashes of light roared out as they headed towards Nointo’s heart, he accurately shot them towards her abdomen.

However, Nointo’s reaction speed wasn’t normal either. She had already held up her large sword to protect her stomach the moment Hajime aimed his gun.

Hajime then used the cross bitt’s to pursue Nointo who was distanced due to the power of the railguns. The loaded exploding slug bullets gave

out a wave of bright red ripples in the night sky and a created a terrifying shockwave. Although Nointo managed to easily negate it with her silver wings, just as Hajime planned it out, they were distanced from one another.

[Hawa, hawawa…..what, how did….]
[.....Sensei. I'm begging you, while we're still trying to kill each other please don't release such cute sounds. It's like it'll ruin the mood?]
[C, cute….Nagumo-kun! Wh, what are you saying to your sensei…..]

They were in a super high grade battle where victory or defeat could be settled in the matter of seconds, however Aiko's cute screams would be heard in intervals, Hajime's vigor was being cut down each time.
[You're surprisingly comfortable while being protected?*I think? この人案外余裕なんじゃなかろうな?*] was said while looking at them suspiciously, actually half of that was correct, Aiko had never thought in her wildest dreams that she would feel so secure while being embraced by Hajime.

[.....Even while holding extra baggage, in order to overpower you…..as expected, you are too strong. You're not a suitable piece for my masters]
[Well, im glad. Finally aggravating the Neets, being called an unneeded nuisance and unqualified piece is of the highest evaluation. Thanks a lot]
[.....It's useless if you're trying to make me angry. I have no emotions]
[Ha? What are you saying? Those were obviously my real feelings]
[.....]

Nointo expanded her wings and steeled her eyes then posed her twin swords in a cross. As she said, there really were no feelings, was it just a useless conversation then…..in Hajime's eyes, some anger began to swell up, his useless thoughts were then omitted immediately. Anyhow, he'll still kill her. No matter what he thinks of Nointo, in the end it's a trivial thing.

Nointo's silver wings began to flutter again, the silver feathers were released and scattered in the sky. However, this time it wasn't shot at

Hajime. Instead, they gathered around Nointo in an instant, several silver feathers were piled up on top and overlapping each other. Right, it was a magic formation. The magic formation glowed out silver lights and Nointo glared at Hajime.

And…..

["Disastrous Flame Wave"*I think? 劫火浪*]

The magic that was used created a huge tsunami of fire that scorched up the sky.

It appears that she was able to not only use magic bullets, but also attribute magic. Though she's never used it up till now, it was because she judged that silver magic bullets would be enough. In other words, she's become serious.

The huge wave of flames raised up and down and completely towered over their heads, towards the extraordinary waves of flames, Aiko momentarily sees an illusion that the world was engulfed in great flames. She glanced up at Hajime from his chest, he was searching desperately for something and sweat could be seen on his cheeks.

What Hajime was looking for was the core of the magic. If he can find it with his Magic Eye, he can make the whole thing disappear as long as he shoots through it. Of course, it would take god-like pin-point accuracy to shoot through a needle-like hole, but for Hajime it was already a normal skill.

However, the magic that Nointo used was a super-wide-ranged magic, it was large enough to completely illuminate **[**Kamiyama**]** which could be comparable to daytime. It was like searching for a needle in an ocean, the position of the core was unknown.

And, the time limit ended without mercy.

The tsunami of flames that reached several hundred meters completely swallowed Hajime and Aiko without letting them escape. It was checkmate no matter how anyone looks at it. It would be normal to assume that the 2 people were completely burnt down and left no traces at all.

However, Nointo didn't look away from the center of the great flames that burned brightly.

[.....Will you also surpass this]

Immediately after Nointo muttered that, the attacks effects ended, at the center of the great flames, Hajime and Aiko were flawlessly enclosed by 4 cross bitts.

With Hajime and Aiko at the center, the 4 cross bitts created a triangular pyramid and connected with one another through wires. A film of bright red light stretched in between the field where the wires connected.

[It's still only in its experimental stage but…..it seems to have worked quite well]
[Th, this is…..]

Hajime's slightly relieved expression could be seen. This was possible because the wire and ore's which carried space magic through generation magic were built into the cross bitts, when four points were united a boxed-type barrier would be formed. It's not just a simple barrier though, it's the type that shuts out space itself, theoretically, its defensive powers were guaranteed. However, it was still in the experimental stages, because there was no solid proof on how much it could actually endure, Hajime was slightly uneasy for a moment.

Nointo looked at the barrier in amazement and saw Aiko who was still embraced being restless, once again she formed another magic formation.

But, there were more than 20 magic formations this time, their forms unfolded as silver feathers were shot towards Hajime simultaneously.

It was exactly like an attack of angry waves. Most likely, although the four point barrier might demonstrate considerable strength, it would be a problem for those inside of it to be caged in. moreover, it's uncertain if it could endure Nointo's waves of all out attacks.

The bad side of this barrier was that Hajime could not attack while enclosed because space itself is cut off. Therefore, Hajime quickly released the barrier and distanced himself greatly away from Nointo, he tried to devote himself to evading until Teio arrived.

Then suddenly at that time, a song began to resound throughout **[**Kamiyama**]**.

Hajime looked at where the singing was coming from as he dodged the silver feathers, there, he saw a gathering of church priests, their hands were crossed in a prayer pose and they continued singing. The chorus consisted of 100 priests gave out a solemnity feel to it, just like those that you'd be able to see at Earth.

Just what, immediately after Hajime questioned himself,

[....~!? What's this? My body is…..]
[Nagumo-kun!? Au~, wh, what is this…...]

Hajime and Aiko's bodies felt weird.

Strength couldn't be found in their bodies and their magic powers were quickly diminishing. It was as if all their energy were being sapped out of their bodies. Moreover, particles of light began to cling on them and their movements became more obstructed.

[Ku, a magic that causes an abnormal state…..as expected of the head temple. Their measures against enemies are perfect]

Hajime's guess was right on target.

Ishtar and them noticed that Nointo, "God's True Apostle", was fighting and supported her with the "Hymn of Supreme Degeneration*I think? 覇堕の聖歌*" magic. This was a brutal magic which weakened the enemies and restrains them as well, it was an irregular magic which could only be sustained if continuously sanged by multiple priests at once.

[Ishtar huh. ……He seems to understand his duties well. Quite a good piece]

Ishtar was looking at Nointo with an ecstatic expression from the ground and Nointo looked back at him with eyes that showed no feelings. If you looked at Ishtar's expression, you'd know right away that he wished to cooperate with Nointo and it seemed to also be the height of his lifetime. Certainly, it was a convenient existence that moved along with God's will.

Ishtar and the other priests aside, currently, the magic invoked was definitely a troublesome one.

Hajime gradually lost his powers, while supplementing it with his huge magical powers, he managed to dodge Nointo's attack. However, it was obvious that his reaction time was cut down drastically. And while continuing on with that body state, Nointo's attacks weren't letting up at all.

Several magic formations formed around Nointo and lightning bolts came dashing out, it rushed towards Hajime while drawing irregular movements in the sky. Hajime shot through the lightning bolts core with Schlag and they dispersed, however he couldn't get rid of the electrified air caused by the lightning bolts and they got shocked a little.

Momentary stiffness. However, that was a fatal chance against Nointo.
[~!?]

Nointo moved in at super-speeds and crossed her twin swords together. Due to the momentary stiffness from the electric shock, Hajime's reaction was slightly delayed, he somehow managed to divert a blow away using Schlag but the second blade couldn't be avoided and it sanked into his shoulder.

[Guu~u!]

While raising a painful voice, he flipped his body by using the outburst from his artificial arm, while using "Aerodynamic" he desperately attempted to get outside of Nointo's sword range. Naturally, her severe sword attacks didn't allow him to have that much free time, he made the cross bitts self-destruct and managed to distance himself away from her.

[Nagumo-kun~!?]
[I'm alright so be quiet!]

Blood dripped down from Hajime's shoulder and onto Aiko's cheeks. From the shockwave that the cross bitts created, "Vajra" was used to defend themselves, although Aiko didn't get hit much by the impact, she desperately tried to keep her consciousness and raised a worried scream towards Hajime.

But, Hajime no longer had time to worry about Aiko. While replying coldly, Nointo began to shoot out silver feathers. Hajime used "Vajra", "Air Claw", and Schlag to bring them down. Because of the particles of light, his body felt sluggish, it wasn't possible to evade everything after all.

Towards that kind of Hajime, Nointo charged forwards from the front…..was a feint and spread her silver wings! a light was emitted. The bright lights blinded Hajime's sights.

However, Hajime's perception ability was first class. Immediately, he felt Nointo's presence behind him and turned Schlag around and rapidly fired. Consecutive explosions were heard, turning around…..he saw a bundle of silver feathers scattering around. Right, it was a decoy that Nointo made with a bundle of her silver feathers.

[~!?]

Hajime's spine stood up straight. His instincts were ringing out loudly, warning him. Hajime regretted that he had turned around, he could only pull the trigger without properly aiming with his arm backwards.

Bullets were shot, and luckily enough it flew towards Nointo's head, but she easily evaded by ducking her head. And, one of the large swords cut down onto Hajime's back. Hajime used the derivation of "Vajra" which was "Intensive Strengthening*I think? 集中強化*" to the best of his abilities, he steeled himself in preparation.

Although Nointo's large sword was equal to Hajime's "Vajra" for an instant, the wall was immediately torn apart, the swords tip swung down onto Hajime's body.

[Gaa~a!!]
[Nagumo-kun!]

He felt pain burning on his back, Towards Hajime who instinctively leaked out his voice, Aiko's expression and voice were impatient. However, Hajime countered Nointo by somersaulting forwards from using the impact of the cut.

Nointo immediately pursues them with her sword held high.

Hajime whose body was sluggish placed "Vajra" onto a cross bitt to make it into a shield, other cross bitts were sent to the left and right of Nointo and released their built-in exploding bullets.

As Nointo rushes in she used her silver wings to brush off the bullets from the cross bitts, and used her large sword to cut down the cross bitt acting as Hajime's shield, furthermore, she flung her second sword onto the first one in order to devour the cross bitt, it easily cut through.

Hajime's eyes were opened wide, Nointo's eyes were literally right in front of his. Her eyes showed clearly that this was their difference. In other words, "This is the end".

Hajime's eyes showed no sign of giving up. However, in order to not let Aiko die in this situation, he needed to consider things. If it comes to it, Hajime decided that he would get hurt instead. In such cases, if he became too weakened, he'd have to regrettably use "Limit Breakthrough" without waiting for Teio to arrive, he prepared himself to sacrifice his left arm first.

And, against Nointo's large sword, Hajime's held up artificial left arm was torn into, the moment when it was about to break through and deal a fatal injury,

Guugaa~aaaaaaa!!!

Along with a dragons roar a black flash approached from beneath them with terrific power. It was a scorching breath which eliminates everything. The violent black storm was accurately aimed at Nointo.

Immediately, Nointo's silver wings wrapped around her body in a defensive stance.

Just after that, the black breath directly hit Nointo's wings, although it was being decomposed the force of the blow pushed her away. The black and silver magics collide with one another and caused black-silver magical powers to scatter in the air, Nointo was flung backwards into one of the churches towers. With the sound of the impact, the tower began rattling and crumbled down.

The screams of the priests led by Ishtar could be heard from underneath. They seemed to be upset because an apostle of God was blown off.

Hajime took out Orkan*his rocket launcher* from the "Treasure Warehouse" and without looking he shot all 12 rockets towards Ishtar's group. This time around he ignored the *different* kind of screams being heard. Because another voice echoed and drowned out theirs.

"Master. Are you alright?"

Towards the voice, Hajime's cheeks loosen up although he's still on the lookout for Nointo. The arrival of the dragon that he was waiting for came.

[You saved me, Teio. It was a bit dangerous just then]

While happy because of Hajime's words, the black dragon which was Teio was seen regaining steepness after bringing down the powerful enemy and came besides Hajime while fluttering her wings.

"I'm glad above all else that I made it on time, later chastise…….I want a reward"

[.....I'll think about it if you manage to protect sensei]

"Really! Don't go forgetting those words now! Sa~a, sensei-dono, you should get on mistress's back"

Hajime, in such a situation Teio is still faithful to her own desires (In retrospect, Yue, Shia, and Kaori are too but,) with an amazed expression, Aiko who was embraced closely was put on her back.

Aiko somehow felt an odd sensation from the two's conversation, she clung obediently on Teio's back because now she won't be weighing him down any longer.

[Ehtto, Teio-san. My best regards]

“Umu. Leave it to me. After all sensei is an important person to master (in the sense of a teacher), I won’t let you fall into enemy hands”

Aiko further increased her misunderstanding from the words “important person” that Teio said, and anxiously looked at Hajime. However you looked at it, it wasn’t the expression of anxiety that a teacher has towards a student, it was the air of a lady in love, however there wasn’t anyone there to tsukkomi.

And at that time, the tower which Nointo plunged into blew off from the ground with a roaring sound. A thick cloud of dust danced around and from the wind pressure of Nointo’s silver wings, it was all blown away and showed her unhurt form. Teio’s breath didn’t seem to be able to pierce through the silver wings defences.

[.....Teio, go]

“Aye. However, I’ll come back to help after sensei-dono’s safety is secured? At the very least, mistress will do something about the people of the church”

Towards Hajime who was already staring at Nointo with intense blood thirst, Teio managed to guess awhile ago the cause of the magic which was weakening Hajime, she reliably declared while staring at Ishtar’s group. Hajime continued to focus on Nointo.

When those words were heard, Hajime simply nodded once and then charged fiercely towards Nointo through the air.

[Nagumo-kun! Be careful! Please…..]

“.....Fumu? Ho~o...well well…..”

Towards Aiko who was posed with both hands united in front of her chest praying, Teio seemed to have guessed what was going on and became interested, in other words she let out a, this is going to be interesting, voice.

"Sensei-dono. Though I understand you're worried about master, I'm in a bit of a rush. I'll send you onto the ground, then mistress will beat around the old damaged group over there. It wouldn't do for master to be obstructed after all"

Aiko said, wait, as Teio began to turn around. For what though, Teio glanced at Aiko who was on her back by bending her neck, Aiko returned the glance with a determined look.

[Teio-san. If you put me down on the ground now, wouldn't having to come back after dropping me off take up quite a bit of time? This is 8,000 meters in the sky. Going back and forth should be quite harsh…..]

"Mu? Certainly, that's absolutely right, but…...sensei-dono, you can't be thinking to"

[Yes. If Teio-san intends to fight for Nagumo-kun's sake then, please allow me to help. If you don't immediately do something about Ishtar-san's group, Nagumo-kun would quickly weaken. It would be a waste of time to send me back down onto the ground]

What Aiko says is possible however honestly Teio is reluctant.

Although a lot of people seemed to have been injured by the Orkan's attack, if you looked Ishtar is preparing to sing the hymn again while also constructing a barrier, Teio wanted to blow them all away as well. But, if by chance Aiko gets hurt, the promise with Hajime would disappear.

“But, it may be bad of me to say this to sensei-dono, but what can you do? Without magic formations nor battle experience? Can you fight against the priests and their knights?”

Teio’s opinion was severe which caused Aiko to strongly grit her teeth and then she slowly moved her finger towards her mouth. And with her eyes closed, she bit and made a cut on her finger, the blood that dripped from her finger tip was used to draw magic formations by smearing it onto the back of her opposite hand.

[I, may not look like it but in terms of magical powers I’m equal to Amanogawa-kun who is the hero. Though I don’t have any battle experience…...I’ll show you that I can properly assist you! Fighting against another person….honestly I’m scared, but I have no other choice but to do it. From now on, in order for everyone to survive and return to Japan, more than anyone else, I must not run away!]

The kingdom that was sceptical to invasion, even the king had become a fanatic like the priests. Relying on God who planned out everything in the first place is no longer an option. In order to survive in this world now, Aiko and them must continue advancing ahead.

If that’s so, as the teacher, even if she was avoided for it, what must be done, must be done. Teio understood from the determination in Aiko’s eyes, though she still hesitated, she decided to permit Aiko tagging along because there was no other way.

“Its inevitable if you’ve already made your final decision. If it’s Sensei-dono’s will, then Master wouldn’t have any complaints. As you wish. Shall we blow up those fools together!”

[Yes!]

Aiko’s tension and fear, and the answer which made up the decision that signaled their movements appeared, Teio flew towards the great church which symbolized the priests in a quick dash. Their enemies

were the priests and temple knights which were made up of hundreds of people.

Now, a different tag team named Teio and Aiko challenged this worlds largest religious head temple.

Chapter 103: The Angel That Fell

The first blow was with Schlagen.

A bright red spark gushed out, the bullet was shot out at super speeds that contained ferocious destructive power from the monsters weapon and straight towards it's target. The bombardment of bullets specialized in penetration which even pierced through Teio's breath from up front, as expected Nointo decided to evade rather than using decomposition from her silver wings to stop it.

She twisted her body as she fell and while she avoided the bright red flash which went over right above her head, she rushed at Hajime at a dreadful speed.

However, he read through her attack and had already placed cross bitts in the way, they fired exploding slug bullets and in the direct hit they released a roaring sound.

[~!?]

Nointo noticed the bright red ripples coming from the exploding slug bullets, did she consider that her silver wings wouldn't be in time, she used her large sword which she held in her hand to intercept them.

The large sword was swung at godlike speeds, it abruptly cut through the bullets into 2 as if they were butter. What was decomposed was the magic power that was inside of the exploding slug bullets though, however it wasn't possible for just a swing from a large sword to cut

through everything, bullets were shot from both the left and right sides and shock waves were released.

Although it's power has decreased, Nointo was exposed to a direct shockwave and momentarily her movements stopped.

In front of her bosom was Hajime who closed the distance within that instant. By using quake legs in the air through use of "Aerodynamic", he began compressing power into his left arm, "Oscillation Pulverizer" and the mechanic "Bursting Shotgun", and with the full extent of his power "Impact Conversion" was poured into "Grand Arm" and the huge magic was released.

Nointo immediately used her 2 large swords as a shield. One of the large swords*At one point they started naming the swords but it was too much of a pain lol* was used to block the fist before the impact was fully released. She barely made it at the last second, she managed to stop Hajime's steel fist.

However, she wasn't able to suppress it's power, Gaa~aan! The colliding of metal resounded out with a terrible roar, Nointo was blown away by the intense force.

Dopaaaan~! Dopaaaan~!

Hajime didn't slack and continued his pursuit. Donner and Schlag was immediately pulled out and fired at maximum power. 2 roaring explosions were heard. 2 bright red flashes tore through the dark night. However, Nointo crossed both her swords as she blew off to take on a defensive stance as there was going to be 12 impacts incoming.

[Kuuuu~!!]

For each attack that Donner and Schlag shot, the fast attacks were only heard as one attack, with super pin-point precision, every bullet landed in the same place. Simultaneously, Nointo groaned with every one of

them, her large swords trembled from the impacts and ~Piki~ an unpleasant sound was slightly heard.

Hajime wondered to himself if he should feel amazed that the durability of the 2 large swords was able to withstand 12 railguns and his fist attack with his whole body put into it and still didn't break.

She was blown away even further, once again, Nointo was buried after destroying some facilities that were solemnly decorated by the church. Hajime took Orkan out of his "Treasure Warehouse" and launched all his rockets just in case.

Bashuuuuu~!!

The group of rockets lit off sparks and dealt fatal wounds onto the building which was on the verge of collapsing. The building collapsed completely along with a great explosion, it was wrapped up in great flames reaching 3,000 degrees celsius from the large amount of tar being stored inside the rockets.

While looking at the great flames which dyed the night sky in red, Hajime still didn't loosen his guard yet. He reloaded rockets into Orkan from the "Treasure Warehouse", and once again, he took aim at the mountain of rubble that was burning brightly.

Then, at that moment,

[~, from below]

Right as Hajime jumped and looked down underneath him, the ground where he once stood at exploded before his eyes, Nointo flapped her silver wings and flew out of the hole. It appears that she managed to save herself from the rest of the assault by using magic to go underneath the ground.

A large amount of silver feathers were shot out like a machinegun and she also released her silver bombardment. They exchanged blows while swaying around like a blown leaf in the wind, She crossed her twin swords together and from the small gap, a sword attack came through from the side and was warded off by the rail gun*I think this sentence goes like this*. Then Hajime launched missiles at Nointo.

Nointo who understood Orkan's power by experiencing it with her body, flew away quickly while releasing silver lights to get away from the pursuing missiles. While she released silver feathers to intercept the missile, she also created magic formations to launch magic attacks in fierce waves towards Hajime.

countless missiles were shot out and explosive flames in full bloom rained down from the night sky, Hajime put Orkan away and immediately pulled out Donner and Schlag again. He quickly shot through the core of the magic attacks that were heading at him and Nointo similarly brought down all the missiles.

A small silence came from the intervals of the fierce aerial battle. Nointo and Hajime were facing eachother in the air.

[Na~a, I've got something I want to ask, will you hear me out for a bit?]
[.....What is it?]

The Ninozku invading the Kingdom's capital shouldn't be unknown to the church. He was one-sidedly attacked without being able to ask his questions, so a temporary truce was given because Nointo decided to listen, It was the perfect time for Hajime to continue talking.

[The things that are happening on the ground. At this rate wouldn't the Kingdom fall into ruins? Next is obviously, this **[**Kamiyama**]**. Rather than waste your time fighting me, shouldn't you be fighting the Majinzoku?]

Hajime stated a reasonable question, however, Nointo snorted through her nose conveying that it was a foolish question.

[If it comes to that then that'll probably be the conclusion for this era]
[The end. …..As I thought, "Ehito" only sees "humans" as another "person", we're only pieces for them to waste time on. ….....By chance, the human beings were chosen for this era this time around? At the rate this is going, is Ehito on the Majinzoku God's side, or has he become their subordinate]
[.....If so what are you going to do about it?]
[No, I just thought I'd check up on the amount of credibility "The Liberator's" stories had? After all, to me, both sides are still just suspicious people]

Nointo's eyebrow twitches when she heard that her master was called a suspicious person. However, Hajime didn't worry about it and continued talking with a smile.

[Na~a, if I'm in the way why don't they just send me back to my former world? Also, the heroes as well, if the Kingdom is to be wiped out already wouldn't that mean that they didn't have much of a role at all?]
[Your request is rejected, Irregular]
[Can I hear the reason?]
[It's because the master wishes for it. The master desires your death, Irregular. Eliminating all difficulties, obtaining immense power and strong comrades…..and then, completely ruining the balance. My master absolutely wishes for your death. That's why, in a way that you'll suffer the most, lamenting your choices, then finally ending you while tasting regret and despair. To the maximum amount in order to give my master the highest delight possible. Ahh, about the heroes….there was quite an elaborate and interesting idea, rather the master's become very interested. Therefore, while you're still here as a piece, continue dancing around to please my master.]

Hajime wasn't worried at all and agreed within his mind, he shrugged his shoulders as the answer was roughly what he expected it to be after

hearing what Miredei Raisen had told them before. In other words, [Those fellows were certainly trash].

However, rather than himself, those last words made him anxious.

[.....An interesting idea?]
[It's not necessary for you to know as you'll be dying very soon]

The talk had ended, Nointo immediately shot out countless magics and silver feathers to resume the battle.

More over, it's power was on a whole different dimension from a while ago. The power that a single feather had was roughly comparable to the railguns and every magic attack was near infinite levels of power. If you looked closely, every part of Nointo's body was clad in silver magic and it came with an overwhelming intimidation. It looked just like the "Limit Breakthrough" that Hajime and Kouki used.

[~!]

While holding his breath against the extreme waves of attacks that consisted of overwhelming power, Hajime held Metsurai in his right hand and Schlagen in his left and continued to fight back. Metsurai roared and shot out 12,000 bullets per minute which completely negated the silver feathers and magic attacks, meanwhile Schlagen's bullets pierced through in a single-file line towards Nointo.

However, Nointo's movements while clad in the silver light was incomparable to what it was before. The moment Schlagen's bright red bombardment pierced through Nointo, her body vanished like haze and appeared several meters away.

Nointo had caused a mirage of afterimages due to her shear speed of dodging the bullet and her body continued to slightly blur as is.

Hajime "Read Ahead*I dono if this is supposed to actually be a skill or not however it was in quotes, if it is then I probably could have named it Foresight, 先読*" and used cross bitts to shoot exploding slug bullets, however once again they only shot through her afterimage. Nointo who completely disappeared ~Zazazazazaza~ created afterimages in the next instant and appeared behind Hajime. And like a spinning top, she swung her twin large swords and spun along with its centrifugal force that contained immense power.

[~!?]

Nointo's last movements far exceeded Hajime's perception with "Light Speed" active, it was a complete surprise attack. Though he just barely managed to lean his body back to avoid a direct hit, Schlagen which was used as a shield was cut into two. It's built-in energy discharged by accident and a huge explosion erupted in between Hajime and Nointo.

That momentarily caused Nointo to delay her pursuit. however it allowed Hajime enough time to counterattack. Hajime's body became clad in bright red magic. He had used "Limit Breakthrough".

Towards Nointo who was advancing, Hajime also advanced a step. Metsurai was no longer in his hands, instead he held onto Donner and Schlag. From that point on it was going to be super close combat.

[Tsuaaa~!!]
[Haaaaa~!!]

Immediately after Hajime dodged the half-swung large sword, both large swords were swung at his body with exquisite timing. Using Schlag he repelled one sword by shooting a railgun at its center and the other was deflected with the upperside of its barrel, Donner in his right hand was aimed directly at Nointo's heart. A bright red flash shot out but Nointo dodge while rotating and left an afterimage, with its momentum she swung her large swords with increased power.

In order to oppose the decomposition, Hajime applied a heavy concentration of “Intensive Strengthening” from “Vajra” onto Schlag which was several times it’s normal density, rather than going against the full brunt of the attack he used Schlag to deflect the first sword upwards.

And towards the 2nd large sword that was swung horizontally, he received it’s blade with the muzzle while still clad in “Intensive Strengthening” from “Vajra” and fired as is. With a flash of light, an explosion sounded out and the 2nd large sword flew away.

They were both within point-blank distance and while dodging and diverting their opponents weapons, they forgot to breath as their fierce attacks continued without being able to deal a fatal blow.

[Ooooooooo~!!!]
[Haaaaaaaaa~!!!]

Unaware, Hajime and Nointo began to shout out.

One tendon or a nerve line, with just one misstep, death would settle in at the next moment. There was no time to pay attention to each others attacks, they only relied on their experiences and instincts while swinging their sword and firing their guns which shaved off their lives a little bit at a time.

The silver sword left a trail of light through the dark night and the bright red flash flew in all directions like blood spraying. If both attacks were being compared to the sun, their storm of attacks would be considered a flare. In one second, in order to continue surviving they dodge each others attacks and their speeds rose without bounds.

In proportion, if they were slightly grazed blood would be stain everywhere. Hajime had shallow cuts everywhere on his body, Nointo was dripping blood from where she was gouged.

Hajime and Nointo's abilities were equal. The way things were going, the battle of offense and defense was thought to continue on for eternity, however Hajime was being cornered. No, to be accurate, he was going to be corned.

Hajime had already understood. Because none of Nointo's magical power has been consumed since the start of the battle.

Needless to say, Hajime had a time limit on using "Limit Breakthrough". It'll forcefully cancel itself and leave him in a weakened state for a while. Although Hajime's magical power was huge, it wouldn't be able to keep up indefinitely.

On the other hand, Nointo was apparently gaining a supply of magical power from somewhere else which allowed her to continue her strengthening and was virtually unrestricted. Hajime's Magic Eye was shining brightly, he was able to see that something similar to a magic stone was lodged into nointo's heart.

Hajime decided that if things stayed the way they were, he'd gradually be beaten.

[Be blown away~!]

Dodododododo!!!!

Simultaneously with the shout, Hajime had the cross bitts fire exploding slug bullets while he was still within the blasts vicinity.

[Have you gone mad]

Nointo's inorganic eyes slightly opened widely. Her eyes carried a color of doubt which questioned Hajime's sanity.

Dozens of exploding slug bullets were shot out by the 6 cross bitts immediately and made countless ripples centering around Hajime and

Nointo. Nointo wrapped her silver wings around her body at once and Hajime also used “Vajra” to its maximum output.

Zudooooooooooon~!!!!!!

Immediately following that, a bright red flower of light bloomed above in the night sky. Needless to say, the immense shockwave blew away Hajime and Nointo.

It was a terrifying shockwave, it pierced through “Vajra” and caused quite a bit of damage to Hajime’s body. As evidence, Hajime was grandly spraying blood everywhere. He was covered in wounds.

Nointo didn’t get away free of harm either, because she couldn’t wrap herself on time, she was also gushing with wounds and she coughed out blood as well. It seems that the impact reached her internal organs.

[.....Were you going for a double suicide?]
[Ha~a, Ha~a.....suiciding with you? Ha, that’s a harsh joke. Only say those lines if you’re a good woman and my lover]

Nointo unintentionally had eyes of doubt from the rash attack, Hajime replied jokingly while breathing roughly. It had a hint of ridicule for wanting to be together with her as a friend for their last moments*Improvised don’t actually get this sentence, お前ごときが誰かと最後を共に出来ると思うなという嘲笑混じりで*.

Hajime then took out a new weapon from the “Treasure Warehouse”. And then he threw out cards which flew at high speeds.

Soundlessly, you would likely lose sight of it if you weren’t paying attention even though it should be there, However, Nointo hit them away as if they were nothing with her large sword.

Kakin~! Kakin~! a rough sound resounded, while spinning around in the air, a Engetsu ring---doughnut shaped disk about 15 centimeters in diameter, or, a throwing weapon called a Chakram.

[Now this. Have you run out of-!?]

Dopan! Dopan! Dopan! Dopan! Dopan! Dopan!

Towards the primitive weapons, Nointo had slightly relaxed her guard towards Hajime, railguns shot out from(. . .)Hajime's right and left hands.

Immediately afterwards, bright red flashes of light appeared on Nointo's left and right side(. . .)who was facing Hajime, her head would be crushed by the assault.

Nointo couldn't release her words due to the impossible situation, she immediately positioned her twin large swords by her side as shields. All 12 bullets that were discharged by Donner and Schlag were exploding bullets. And just like before, they were pin-point accuracy attacks.

Why did the bullets shoot out from completely different directions and had Nointo pincered.

That was because of the Engetsu rings that Hajime threw out earlier. The Engetsu rings had "Sign Interception" and "Air Claws" built into them through generation magic, although they're a stealthy and assassination typed throwing weapon, more than that, it was an artifact with a special effect.

It's gate function was what made it possible to kill the Clione*the Immortal monster* at **[**Merujine Undersea Ruins**]**. In other words, the vacant hole in the Engetsu ring is directly connected to the same space with the other Engetsu rings, if you shot a bullet through it, it'll jump through space and appear out from the hole of another Engetsu ring. Of course he's also able to remotely control them just like the cross bitts.

Protecting her head were her twin large swords, the exploding bullets that calculated Nointo's every move jumped through space, every bullet left no gaps and reached their intended targets, a terrific shock wave surged out.

In the next instant,

Bakin~!
Bakin~!

Along with the sounds, Nointo's large swords broke down from the middle.

[Na-! Why, from just this much……]

Though she said that, there was no feelings in her voice, however Nointo was openly surprised.

However, she herself probably didn't notice. After Hajime released the first pin-point shots, ever since the they were in the middle of their extreme close combat battle, he had continued to aim all impacts towards the crack that had appeared on Nointo's large sword rather than at her actual body. Simply because they were equal in ability, he was waiting for the chance that would come along with breaking her weapon.

Hajime certainly didn't miss the chance that Nointo gave him, he took out a new artifact from his "Treasure Warehouse" and threw it continuously. Nointo had no time to dodge the 10 artifacts that were thrown out at high speeds, at once, she tried to fend them off with her broken large swords.

However, that was a bad move against this artifact. What was thrown out were round ore's with wires attached to them.

It was a capturing tool called a bola which was commonly known as a throwing weapon. Usually, after hitting its target, with enough centrifugal force it'll start rotating, because it had built-in induction stones it could easily achieve enough speed when thrown immediately. And naturally, the thing that Hajime created was not just a simple bola.

[~! This is, I can't move!]

The handles of Nointo's large swords, both her arms, waist, and feet were entangled by the bola, meanwhile the spherical ores produced a ripple as they floated in the air. That was due to the effect of space magic which was created through generation magic. The weights are fixed into space itself, thus the captured object is also fixed in place.

In the first place, Nointo had the decomposition ability, so he had less than 10 seconds before she manages to actually break free. Moreover it wasn't possible to restrain her wings because they were composed of her magic, so she would probably just reuse her magic to create new ones. As things stand, the silver wings will likely remove the constraints fairly easily.

But, Hajime's aim is only several few seconds. A one hit kill------the strongest possible blow that he could dish out in these few seconds!

Hajime pulled out a large cylinder weapon which measured up to 2 meters in length from his "Treasure Warehouse". It was the pile bunker. Kiiiiiiii~!! letting out a particular sound and charged with bright red thunder sparking out. Then, he charged straight towards Nointo.

[Ku]

Nointo leaked out a bitter voice and wrapped herself with her silver wings like a cocoon. Silver magic containing decomposition shone out brightly, it looked exactly like a moon.

Hajime slammed pile bunker directly into that beauty and created a terrific shockwave. Immediately after that, it's newly added space fixation function activated and 4 arms appeared, pile bunker was fixed in place while going against the decomposition. The bright red sparks were already at critical stages and rampaged intensely.

[Endure it if you can]

Hajime's lips were smiling fearlessly and his eyes were glaring with murderous intent. The bright red magical power of "Limit Breakthrough" shined more and more, soon the silver moon was completely dyed into a bright red moon.

Afterwards, an invisible impact surged out from the pile bunkers exit hole. It was the function which caused space vibrations built into the exit hole. It was a simplified version of the space magic "Tremble Heaven", it shot a fierce vibration towards the target, the combination-----caused the targets durability to decrease drastically.

And along with gravity magic at the moment of the impact, the jet black stake increased it's weight up to 20 tons and was released with a roaring sound like a thunder.

Dogooooooooooooooo~!!!!

At zero distance with Explosive charge that was compressed and shock wave conversion magic, the stake made of Azanthium drilled down in godlike speeds of acceleration due to the electromagnetic induction and it completely destroyed its prey.

The jet black stake released bright red sparks and easily pierced through the 2 silver wings, it penetrated through Nointo's heart and still continued further, it went straight through her body and tore off a wing from its root. Then just like a meteor, it flew away into the distance while emitting a red trail.

[-------]
[.....]

What remained was Nointo's figure with a hole literally opened at the place where her magical power supply source was. Blood probably didn't spill out because the wound was completely charred by "Thunder Clad", it was just a body with a hole punctured in its chest which makes it not feel human at all. The eyes that peeped out were cold and mechanical as ever and the silver wings dispersed into the air.

It was simply still, Hajime seemed to have some mixed feelings about the reproachful atmosphere……

While looking at Nointo's eyes, it quickly lost its light and became hollow, while tilting a little, her body fell down onto a remote hillside nearby the churches building. On the surface of the dark mountain, Nointo's silver glow shined brightly.

When Hajime got down by her side, he pulled out Donner and aimed it at her head. Although his Magic Eye and his perception system ability showed that Nointo was definitely dead, he felt uneasy unless he shot a bullet into her head. It was a nasty habit of his.

At the moment when Hajime was about to pull the trigger on Donner,

Zudooooooooooooooooo~!!!!!

A huge explosion roared out and caused **[**Kamiyama**]** to shake severely. The spectacle that greeted Hajime's eyes when he looked back was……..the church and its cathedral collapsing while a huge mushroom cloud formed from it with a roaring sound.

[.....No way]

Hajime's unintentional mutter echoed out rather clearly.

Chapter 104: God's Mountain

[.....No way]

Unintentionally, Hajime voiced out as he watched the huge mushroom cloud that scorched the night sky. A long time ago, while stunned he remembered a scene from a war documentary that he saw on TV, then suddenly a telepathy came.

"Ma, master…..how are things on your side?"
"O? O~o, Teio huh. No, things on this side just ended…."
"Fumu, that's great then. As expected of master. We've just finished up on this side as well but, can you join up with us?"
"No, something amazing just….."
".....We already know of the cause. Or rather, it's mistress and co.'s fault….."
".....What was that?"
"For the time being, can you join up with us?"
"Ha~a, I got it"

It seems the cause of how the church's head temple completely collapsed is known, just what, Hajime quickly moved to meet up with Teio while his cheeks cramped up. While going up into the sky, Teio's black dragon form was quickly discovered in the air at a distance away from the mushroom cloud.

And, in Hajime's eyes, Aiko who was riding on Teio's back had an, [Awawawa], kind of feeling with panicking emotions reflected. The question, Why is Aiko here? appeared within his head, judging by Aiko's personality, she most likely begged Teio to stay and cooperated instead of running away in order to help Hajime. Rather than that, its obvious that Aiko was in a worried state of [I've went and done it now] kind of feeling.

[.....Sensei, Teio. You both seem to be fine]
[Na, Nagumo-kun! Thank goodness you were safe. …...Really, thank goodness]

“Master. Umu, for a moment there we thought that you were dead, but you’re still alive. Jeez, as expected of master’s sensei-dono. I didn’t expect mistresses dragon breath to completely eradicate the entire church itself. It was heavenly brilliant”

Towards Teio’s words, Hajime could only blink. And with a “It can’t be” expression, he turned towards Aiko.

[.....Sensei, just what exactly did you do]
[Awawawawawa, th, thas*not a typo, she's flustered* wrong! I didn’t mean for this to. The church’s barrier was a pretty strong…..if Teio-san’s breaths power was increased then…...we only intended to break the barrier but……]

Although Aiko leaked out a sigh of relief when she saw Hajime’s appearance, she began to panic again when Hajime asked her questions. It appears that this is what you get when you ask a panicked Aiko questions.

Aiko while riding on Teio, was determined to fight so that Ishtar’s magic which caused an abnormal state wouldn’t be used on Hajime. However, even with a high aptitude for magic, Aiko who didn’t have a satisfactory magic formation wasn’t able to release strong magic attacks. And again, the cathedral itself seemed to be an artifact which created a powerful barrier, If Ishtar was being protected within the barrier, then even Teio’s breath wouldn’t be able to reach him.

If this continues, Ishtar will be able to calmly use magic from a safe zone. She thought about whether or not there was a way to obtain more power to exceed the barrier as they dodge the temple knights attacks, what Aiko came up with was…...to take advantage of her own special skills. By the way, Aiko’s abilities are as followed,

Name: Hanataka Aiko	Age: 25	Level: 56

Class:	Farmer
Strength:	190
Vitality:	380
Resistance:	190
Agility:	310
Magic:	820
Magic Resistance:	280

Skills

- Soil Management
- Soil Recovery [+Automatic Recovery]
- Range Cultivation [+Range Expansion] [+Foreign Substance Conversion]
- Growth Stimulation
- Selective Breeding
- Plant Judgement System
- Fertilizer Generation
- Mixture Training
- Automated Harvesting
- Fermentation Operation [+Rapid Fermentation] [+Range Fermentation]
  [+Remote Fermentation]
- Range Temperature Adjustment [+Optimization] [+Barrier Bestow]

- Farm Barrier
- Abundant Rain
- Language Comprehension

Among these skills, it seems that she used Fermentation Operation. About **[**Kamiyama**]**, since there are lots of people living here, there was a large amount of things that could be fermented. With that in mind, she seemed to have tried to performed methane fermentation like on earth. To be exact it was a replica with different world substances, however there was no change in it being flammable gas.

While single-mindedly spreading it around the church. It wasn't a magic attack so the church's barrier didn't react as it was merely fermentation and it actively collected within and outside of the barrier just like air. In order to keep it within a certain range, Teio used manipulated the wind to blow them into a fixed location.

And, with so much flammable gas gathered like this, combined with Teio's breath it would be possible to destroy the church's barrier, with that, when she released her breath…...

[.....It became like this]

"Umu. Mistress and co. blew them away on a grand scale, it's been a long time since I've last felt death. Far from destroying the barrier, the church itself erupted…….such a method, throughout mistresses life she's never thought of anything like this. As expected of master's sensei-dono. I'm impressed"

[Thas wrong! It wasn't like that! I didn't think it'll explode so much like this! Just that, I thought I shouldn't half-ass it! That's the truth! Ha~!? Everyone of the church!? What's become of them!?]

Aiko made excuses while flustering and teary eyed, her eyes began to wander towards the church ruins. Hajime and Teio also looked towards the mountain of ruins.

[.....Ma~a, they were likely blown away with it]

"The church just put too much faith in their barrier. It was also a surprise attack, completely defenseless against that blast, it's likely none are alive"

[A, ah…..it can't…..saying that, although I prepared myself for this…..]

Having been an accomplice, Aiko's face turned pale as she was the cause that led to the explosion killing everyone of the church. Although she steeled herself for the battle, she can't regain her composure when the results were being pointed out.

Unintentionally she vomited on the spot. To Aiko who was crying and vomiting, Hajime scratched his head ~Kari Kari~, and quietly snuggled up with Aiko. And he held Aiko's hands without minding that it was dirty with vomit. The current Aiko required warmth.

Aiko felt warmth being transmitted through her numb hands and her frozen heart melted. And, just for now, she forgot everything related to a teacher and student relationship, she leaped onto Hajime's chest and clung on tightly while sobbing.

".....Mistress's back……"

Teio voiced her sad opinion while looking at the terrible sight of her back, she immediately used Reproduction Magic to restore her scales. Teio also desired to allow Aiko some time to recover, she was the one who shot the breath to begin with so Aiko didn't have to feel more responsibility than necessary, however right now wasn't the right time to explain that. So, with Reproduction Magic, she slightly healed her worn-out soul.

Aiko whose energy returns, looks up from Hajime's chest. Although it's become a terrible scene because she has so much snot, tears, and vomit,

Hajime didn't particularly mind and simply took out some water and towel from the "Treasure Warehouse" and cleaned up the dirty Aiko. Although Aiko was upset to have shown such disgraceful behavior, she remained as is.

[Have you calmed down? Sensei]
[Y, yes. I, I'm fine now. Nagumo-kun…..]

Aiko who pulled herself back together after Hajime's question, her face was dyed in red with shame and what not. Somehow, Hajime's voice causes her fever up. The eyes glancing upwards and staring were feverish and moist. No matter how you looked at it, that wasn't caused by only a sense of shame, rather it was the expression which held special feelings.

Hajime only saw Aiko as a teacher and not a "woman" however, as expected, when such an expression is being shown, [Are~? Isn't something about this different? Is it possibly, *that* kind?], he managed to understand Aiko's feelings and his cheek cramped up.

This was dangerous in various ways, Hajime immediately adverted his eyes and Teio voiced out a word of caution.

"Master. There's a person. He clearly doesn't seem to be ordinary….."

[What was that?]

It couldn't be, its surprising that anyone could have survived that kind of explosion, Hajime looked in the direction that Teio was looking, there was definitely a man with a bald head and wearing white vestments descending, Hajime and them stared directly at him. However, as Teio said, he definitely wasn't an ordinary person. That was because his body was transparent and he was swinging waveringly.

Did the man with the bald head guess that Hajime and them had recognized him, he turned around and started heading back, he was

moving as if gravity didn't exist and slipped and slid to the other side of the mountain rubble. And he turned around just before he disappeared to glance over at Hajime and them.

[.....Is he trying to tell us to follow?]

"Probably. What should we do, master"

[.....That's right, although I want to quickly meet up with Yue and them…...to begin with, we came here to look for the Age of Gods magic. It's possible that this is somehow related to that. We can't afford to miss clues]

"Fumu, That's right. Well then, lets chase after him"

With Hajime's words, Teio nods once and flaps her wings to land on the ruins, after unloading Hajime and Aiko, she reverted back to human form. And she noticed the dirt on her back, with lowered eyebrows, she took out new clothes from the "Treasure Warehouse". Hajime also noticed his state and pulled out some extra clothes from the "Treasure Warehouse" and finished changing quickly.

[A~u, s, sorry…..I've made you dirty]

The cause was Aiko, she apologized and her small frame became even smaller with shame. As a woman, it's unbearably shameful to have vomited on another person's clothes.

Hajime and Teio also understood that there was no helping it, they wanted to tell her not to mind it, but it wasn't such a simple thing to do. Anyways, with the little exchange from a while ago, Aiko had accepted her feelings, therefore, she's begun to think about various things about Hajime in particular.

However, it would be a problem if she stayed curled up forever, Hajime quickly changed the topic.

[Sensei, sorry for making you tag along. Though I don't know what will happen…..we need to make sure of that bald guy's identity]
[Y, yes, I understand. …..I'll follow along with Nagumo-kun……]

Hajime thought that there was a strange power and heat from those last words she spoke, but he daringly pretended not to notice and stepped into the place where the bald man had disappeared.

The bald man's figure is shown once in a while as they advanced through the ruins. And after 5 minutes of walking they finally reached their destination, the bald man stood quietly while looking straight at Hajime's group.

[Who are you? What do you want with us?]
[.....]

The bald man did not answer Hajime's question, however he did point silently with his finger. Although the place was just a heap of rubble, the old man's glance seems to be telling them to advance. Hajime who judged that even if he questioned him he wouldn't be getting any answers, he nodded at Teio and them and went towards the location. Then, at that moment, the rubble began to levitate and the ground underneath it began to shine faintly. If you looked, one of the crests of the great labyrinth was carved there.

[.....You're one of the…..Liberators?]

As Hajime voiced his question, simultaneously the light that the ground emitted wrapped Hajime and them. And in the next instant, Hajime's group were standing in a completely unknown strange space. It wasn't that big. The room was painted lustrously black, a magic formation was drawn in the center, and there was an antique book on the pedestal by its side. It appears that they've suddenly reached the final room of the labyrinth.

Hajime and them walked towards the magic formation. Hajime grabbed Aiko's hand who had a "?" floating over her head and led her, while nodding to Teio for a moment they stepped into the magic formation.

Then, it wasn't the usual feeling, their memories were being examined, there was a sense of something going deeper inside, and the 3 people instinctively let out a groan. It was a very uncomfortable sensation, for a moment, they thought it was a trap, but in the next moment it completely cleared up. And, were they recognized as people who's completed other labyrinths, the knowledge of magic was implanted directly into their heads.

[.....Spirit Magic?]
[U~mu. It appears to be magic that can directly interfere with souls]
[I see. The reason how Miredi's soul survived and was directly implemented into a golm was this….]

To the experience of knowledge being carved directly into the head suddenly, Aiko was crouched down holding her head, After Hajime noded with a consent face, they approached the pedestal by the side and picked up the book.

It appears that the contents were notes written by Rouse Byrne*pronounced Ban* who was the founder of the **[**Kamiyama**]** great labyrinth. It explained practically the same thing that Oscar Orcus had, the liberators exchanges up until he died at **[**Kamiyama**]**.

However, because Hajime wasn't interested in it, he quickly skipped through it. He didn't care about Rouse Byrne's life. Why did he only leave himself with an image body, he probably could have lived like Miredei by using Spirit Magic, although the reason was explained during the confession, he was through*as in done with the subject*.

And, the last section was describing the conditions to capturing the labyrinth, according to it, when the image body of Rouse Byrne appears as the guide, it would mean that you've pretty much been accepted.

Because the image body required at least 2 or more proofs of capturing great labyrinths, also having no faith in god, or overcoming some kind of influence that god's power acted on in order to appear. In other words, it appears that **[**Kamiyama's**]** concept, was to possess a firm will that wouldn't bow down to god.

That was probably it but, originally, if you challenged the proper route, it may have been possible to be accepted by the will. Aiko had been accepted, Although she received quite a lot of teachings from the church for a long time, because her feelings for her students were much higher than faith, or maybe it was enough that she had the judgement to go against the church.

For the people of this world, it was a rather harsh condition but, it was an easy condition for Hajime and them.

At last, Aiko who recovered from the shock of obtaining Age of Gods magic is encouraged, and they took the ring from the pedestal along with the book, they then quickly left the place. Once again, Rouse Byrne's crest shined and they returned back to their original place.

[Sensei, are you alright?]
[U~u, yes. somehow…..even so, such amazing magic…..certainly, if theres such incredible magic then, there might also be magic that sends us back to Japan]

Aiko nodded as she consented and was massaging her temple. Her expression was of someone who was tired from the rough events that developed within several days and had finally ended, she loosened up when the possibility of returning was truely felt.

[Well then, we know the place where the magic formation is now, lets quickly join up with Yue and them]
[A~, that's right! The Kingdom is being attacked right? I hope everyone's safe…..]

With a worried expression Aiko clenched her chest as she prayed, then they began to descend from the mountain. Though I say that, the only way down from **[**Kamiyama**]** to the Kingdom was to jump through the lift.

Aiko's Scream was echoing as she experienced free-falling, Hajime and Teio are through though. With Aiko on his shoulder Hajime and them landed on the ground and, disregarding the flames and screams of the Kingdom which Aiko had a skeptical expression towards and they decided to first go to where Kaori and them were.

And, what they saw when they joined up……

With a sword thrust through the chest, Kaori's figure had already ceased breathing.

Chapter 105: Betrayal

Going back in time a little. Precisely when Ririana and them arrived in the Royal Palace.

Pakyaa~aaaaan!

[Tsu!? Just what is-!?]

Towards the unpleasant sound of glass being broken, Shizuku Yaegashi who was sleeping in her room quickly jumped into alert mode and got out of her bed sheets while grabbing onto her black katana which was beside her pillow. It was clearly the movements of a person who continues being cautious of their surroundings even while resting.

[.....]

For a while, Shizuku hid her breathing with a stern expression and was ready to draw her katana at any moment, however there were no abnormalities within her room so she leaked out a sigh of relief.

The reason why Shizuku was releasing this kind of alertness was because over the past several days, there were absolutely no signs or sightings of Ririana or Aiko.

Even for some time before that, she noticed a sense of incongruity within the Royal Palace. On that day, the day when Aiko returned, she disappeared after announcing that she had something important to tell them at dinner time, due to this shizuku suspected that something bad had happened to Aiko in order to silence her.

Naturally, she searched for the two missing peoples whereabouts, though they were told that Aiko and them were just being questioned by the head of the church, Ishtar, at the main temple, she wasn't allowed to meet them directly. In addition they even forcefully avoided her by declaring to Shizuku that they would be released in a few days, moreover, Ririana's father, King Erihido also said to not worry about them, she could do nothing but withdraw reluctantly for the time being.

However, even then her vague anxiety didn't disappear, just like now, when going to bed she was vigilant and cautious like a spy.

When Shizuku soundlessly got off her bed, she quickly straightened up her equipment in a few seconds and carefully left the room. Since Kaori decided to travel with Hajime, Shizuku was the only person in the room now. When she confirmed that there were no abnormalities within the corridor, she immediately knocked on Kouki and Ryutaro's door which was opposite to hers.

The door opened immediately and Kouki's appearance was seen. Ryutaro was in the back of the room and seemed to be fully awake. It appears that they've also woken up like Shizuku due to the loud sound a while ago.

[Kouki, please have more caution. To suddenly open the door…..wouldn't it be troublesome if it was an assailant? *unsure of this line, 誰何するくらい手間じゃないでしょ*]

Shizuku's eyebrows drop a little when Kouki opened the door without any caution and warned him. On the other hand, Kouki had an astonished expression. Even though he heard the breaking sound, he didn't think that there would be any immediate dangers in the corridors of the Royal Palace. It appears that he wasn't fully awake yet.

These past several days, Shizuku had a sense of incongruity within the Royal Palace and about Aiko and them, [Something is wrong, keep your guard up], is what she continually said but, Kouki and Ryutaro thought she was thinking too much about it and didn't take it seriously.

[More importantly, Shizuku. What was that a while ago? It sounded like something was breaking……]
[.....I don't know. Anyways, lets wake everyone up and gather information. Whatever it is, I've got a bad feeling from it….]

Shizuku only said that and turned around to knock on her classmates doors one after another. Most of the students were gathered for an immediate meeting due to the sudden crashing sound from a while ago. Uneasily, Kouki began to raise his voice as the students began to gather in the corridor looking annoyed that their slumber was disturbed.

Then, at that time, one of the maids that was friends with Shizuku rushed in. She comes from a house which enjoys fencing and had the linage of knights, due to this connection she became intimate with Shizuku.

[Shizuku-sama…..]
[Nia!]

The maid called Nia ran up besides Shizuku while looking like she was in low spirits. It was a shadow of her usual dignified atmosphere, Shizuku remembered the sense of incongruity and raised her eyebrows, but it was overtaken by surprise at the information that Nia brought, her sense of incongruity was completely blown away.

[The first large barrier was broken]
[.....What was that?]
Nia plainly tells the truth as Shizuku instinctively asked back.

[The Majinzoku*fixing Ninzoku errors lol* are invading. A huge army was developed on the outskirts of the Kingdom's capital and their attack broke the large barrier]
[....it can't be, just how did they…..]

The information was far too unbelieveable, even Shizuku lost her calm and became stunned.

The other classmates were also the same, they began to mutter noisily. The Majinzoku's army, it was impossible for them to be able to invade the King's capital without arousing anyones attention, with the large barrier broken it became even harder to take in. It's unavoidable that they wouldn't be able to keep calm.

[.....Is only the first barrier of the large barrier broken?]

Within that, with a stern expression Kouki asked Nia. The large barrier that protects the Kingdom was composed of 3 pieces, The first on the outside, second, then third barrier, the third barrier was the strongest as it covered the smallest scale of land out of the others.

[Yes. For now…..however, the first barrier was broken in a single blow. It's only a matter of time before they topple though everything……]

Towards Nia's answer, Kouki suggested to everyone that they should help out in repulsing the army.

[Even if just a little we should help buy time. In the meantime the Kingdom's residents should take shelter, if the army corps and knights are prepared….]

There were few that showed a resolute expression towards Kouki's words. Shizuku and Ryutaro, Suzu, it was only the front groups such as Nagayama's party.

The other classmates only had a gloomy look while turning their eyes away. They are the people who have lost their will to stand on the front lines. To suddenly challenge a huge army was only further increasing their hesitation.

Then even if by ourselves, Kouki began to resolute his heart, surprisingly, Eri Nakamura answered.

[Wait, Kouki-kun. Rather than fighting on your own, I think we should quickly join with Meld and them]
[Eri….but]
[Nia-san, the army…...how much do we know about them?]
[.....they're roughly 100,000 in strength]
The students all held their breaths when they heard the number.

[Kouki-kun. We can't suppress them if it's only us. …..We have to oppose numbers with numbers. Even if we're stronger than an ordinary person, I think that you should go to the place where you're most needed. That is, shouldn't we cooperate side by side with Meld's group…..]

Although it was from the modest and docile glasses girl Eri, the strength in her eyes wasn't below that of Kouki and the others. And her opinion was justifiable.

[Un, Suzu is also in favor with Eririn. As expected of Suzu's Eririn! Those glasses aren't just for show!]

[Suzu~u…...The glasses are unrelated~]
[Fufu, I also agree with Eri. I lost my calm a little there. What about you Kouki?]

Towards the 3 girls opinions, Kouki was hesitating. However, after carefully thinking over Eri's judgement, Kouki also trusted her quite a bit, in the end, he decided to join up with Meld's knights and army corps just as Eri said.

Kouki and them began to run towards where the knights and soldiers were mobilizing. No one noticed the smile in the shape of a crescent by their side…….

~~~~~~

When Kouki and them reached the point which was designated as the emergency meeting place, a lot of soldiers and knights have already lined up in an orderly manner, the deputy leader of the knights, José*In case you guys didn't know it's pronounced ho-zay* Rankaido, was on the platform and briefing them in a loud voice. While bathing in the moonlight, the soldiers were all standing still with pale and stunned expressions, they just stared at José with no vigor.

Then, José who noticed that Kouki and them just entered the plaza stopped talking and beckons Kouki.

[.....Good job coming here. Do you understand the situation?]
[Yes, We've heard from Nia already. Ehtto, where's Meld-san?]

Kouki nodded towards the welcoming words and question of José, and he didn't see Meld's appearance as he looked around so he asked about his whereabouts.

[The head is dealing with a few things. More importantly, sa~a, come into the center. The Hero is our leader after all….]
~~~~~~

As José said, Kouki and them were guided into the center where the soldiers were lined up. The classmates who stayed behind, [Eh? Us as well?], showed a puzzled expression, while being crowded by silent soldiers they could do nothing but follow Kouki and them.

Passing through the silence, the surrounding soldier's expressions hardly changed at all too, along with the knights appearances, the feeling of incongruity began to swell up within Shizuku. It was the bad feelings that she felt ever since the beginning when she woke up, Shizuku's heart was conflicted. Unconsciously, she put power into her hand that was gripping her black kanata.

And when Kouki and them were completely surrounded by the soldiers and knights, José restarted his speech.

[Everyone, the situation draws near. However, there's nothing to fear. There is no enemies who can stand against us. We do not know defeat. Death shall not strike us. Sa~a, everyone, welcome our Hero. Right now, we exist specifically for this day. Sa~a, take up your swords]

The soldiers and the knights draw out their swords altogether.

[It's the beginning of the slaughter. Watch closely]

José took something out of his bosom and held it over his head. As instructed, not only the soldiers but also kouki and them payed attention.

And….

Ka!!

Light bursted out.

The thing José was holding shot out bright light which was comparable to Hajime's flashbang. Kouki and them who were paying attention to it

were completely defenseless, they immediately avert their eyes and cover them while releasing a short scream, their sights have been temporarily blocked out by looking straight at the light.

And, in the next instant……

Zuburi~

countless vivid sounds ring out.

[Agu~?]
[Ga~a!]
[Gufu~!?]
Following that, muffled screams were heard from many places.

The screams were different from the ones caused by the light a while ago. It was the voice that leaked out when in agony and pain. Then immediately afterwards, there was the sound of countless people falling onto the ground ~Dosa Dosa~.

Inside that, only Shizuku understood the cause. After entering the open space, her caution was raised to the maximum. She felt a sense of incongruity within José's speech. Thats why, immediately when the flash of light exploded, she took up a defensive stance without being shaken and immediately after that she was able to block the assassin's blade with her black kanata. It was likely the gift of training that allowed her to only rely on the presence she felt while her eyes were blinded.

And, after the light settled down, Shizuku began to look around her surroundings as her sight began to recover, every single one of her classmates were pierced in the back by the knights and soldiers swords and being held down onto the ground.

[Wha, this…..]

They raised their groaning voices as they were knocked down and suppressed from above, furthermore, looking at her classmates appearances that had swords in their backs, Shizuku's voice was stuck in her throat. It can't be, she began to imagine the worst outcome that they were all dead but, it appears that everyone was just barely alive as they all raised out voices in agony.

Although she was slightly relieved when knowing that, Shizuku turned a stern glance towards the surrounding soldiers in the unpredictable situation, a strange scene was reflected within the mesh of the crowd and she unintentionally stiffened up.

[Ara-ra, should I say that it was as expected? …….Ne~e, Shizuku?]
[Eh? Eh…..what are you-!?]

Right, while all other classmates were in critical condition on the ground, there was only 1 other student that was calmly standing. That student was completely different from their usual self, with a glutinous voice they talked to Shizuku. Since their atmosphere changed too much, Shizuku's questions and doubts were stuck in her throat.

In that moment, once again, a knight thrusted out their sword towards Shizuku's back.

[Ku!?]

While being shaken up by the other persons sudden change, Shizuku was barely able to dodge and turned towards the student with an amazed glance.

[You also dodged this huh…..really, Shizuku is troublesome huh?]
[What are you sa-!?]

Further increasing in intensity, the soldiers and knights join in and thrust their swords out. Shizuku surpassed them all then suddenly turned her gaze as her name was called out.

[Shizuku-sama! Help……]
[Nia!]

There the appearance of Nia was thrown on the ground with a knight on top of her and a sword about to stab into her. Shizuku immediately arrived nearby Nia's location in an instant with her high-speed movement skill "No Rhythm", she swung her sheath at the knight who was on top of Nia and blew him away.

[Nia, are you alright?]
[Shizuku-sama……]

While supporting up Nia who was on the ground, Shizuku looked around her surroundings in caution.

Towards that Shizuku, Nia murmurs and clings both hands around her.

And,

…...A dagger was stabbed into Shizuku's back.

[Agu~!? Ni, Nia? Wh, why…….]
[.....]

With an expression like she couldn't believe what happened and grimacing over the acute pain running through her back, Shizuku looked down at Nia who was clinging to her.

Her expression no longer had the cheerful look nor the familiarity it once held, she only returned Shizuku's glance expressionlessly back at her.

Shizuku finally noticed it at last. At first, she thought Nia's state was due to the Kingdom being invaded, however that wasn't it, her atmosphere

was almost identical to the expressionless knights and soldiers which surrounded her, there was definitely a different reason for this.

Nia held onto Shizuku's arm and twisted it as she pinned her down onto the ground, she then attached shackles which sealed her magic just like all the other students had.

[Ahahaha, as expected even for Shizuku, surely you didn't think that that child would turn against you? Un un, that's probably right? That's why I purposely took time to prepare it?]

With scorching pain running through her back and gritting her teeth on the cold ground, Shizuku realized that something was done to the soldiers and Nia. And although she didn't want to admit it, the disastrous scene that unfolded before her, right now, she called out to her close friend who had an unusually unpleasant smirk on her face.

[What does this...mean…..Eri]

Right, that person who was modest and quiet, attentive and kind-hearted, Shizuku and their trusted companion which they shared their joys and sorrow with, it was that person, Eri Nakamura.

Even while sustaining severe injuries, the students who were targeted and still alive could do nothing but have an expression filled with agony, they watched Eri's expression as she walked calmly and steadily through the soldiers in a grand manner.

Rather than answering Shizuku's question, Eri began to laugh oddly in amusement as she moves towards Kouki. And after taking off her glasses, she pulls on the magic sealing collar which was placed on Kouki's neck with an attractive smile.

[E, Eri….Just….what...gu….happened…..]

Although not to the extent of Shizuku and them who were his childhood friends, Eri who was one of his companions and close friend had a far too different atmosphere around her, Kouki desperately questions her while enduring the pain of the sword which ran through his body. However, Eri had a delirious expression which contained heat within it and disregarded Kouki's question.

Then,

[Aha, Kouki-kun, I~caught~you~]

while saying so, she placed her lips on top of Kouki's. Within the strange silence which surrounded the area, a vivid sound of water lapping could be heard. Eri was crazily releasing her emotions as if she had been saving it up for years towards Kouki.

Although Kouki couldn't understand what was going on, he was desperately trying to shake free but, he was suppressed by several people, along with the magic sealing collar, like all the other students he also had his hands and feet bound as well, moreover his power was sapped from him as there was a sword thrust through his body.

Was she finally satisfied, Eri separated her lips while creating a silver thread. Then, with and ecstatic expression in her eyes she licked her lips and started to stand up slowly, she then glared at the students who were being held down and bleeding. Absentminded expressions as well as agonized expressions were lined up. When she saw such a spectacle she nodded in satisfaction, her eyes stopped towards Shizuku and she smiled.

[Ma~a, these kinds of things. Shizuku]
[~.....What do you mean….Kofu~....]

With an expression which showed she didn't understand, Shizuku vomited blood as she glared at Eri, Eri shook her head with an

expression that said, my bad, and began to talk about the reason as if she was talking to a baby.

[U~n, you don't know huh? You see, I've always wanted Kouki-kun. That's why, I did what was necessary to obtain him. It's as simple as that]
[.....If you liked Kouki then...if you'd confessed then...this kind of thing…]

Towards Shizuku's rebuttal, for a moment Eri's becomes expressionless. However, she began to talk and returned a smirk immediately again.

[It's useless, useless, use~less. Confessing is useless. Kouki-kun's kind-hearted so there's no way he'd see someone else as special. Even if there's only garbage with no value around his surroundings, he wouldn't leave them alone because he's too kind-hearted. That's why, in order to make Kouki-kun mine only, I have to work hard and get rid of all the garbage in the surroundings]

You can't even understand that? as Eri shrugs her shoulders like it was a foolish thing. Although they were Being called garbage, they didn't have much anger as they were too surprised at the sudden change. For the person in front of her to have changed this much, honestly, Shizuku looked at the girl as if this was the first time they've met.

[Fufu, it was good that we were sent to a different world. In Japan, it would have been truly difficult to clean up the garbage, it was harsh living there. Of course, I won't allow us to be sent back after this war is over. Along with Kouki-kun, the both of us will continue living here for ever~and~ever~]

While looking at the laughing and giggling Eri, a sudden impossible guess came into Shizuku's mind and she unintentionally voiced it out.

[...It can't be...the reason the large barrier...broke so easily was because…..]

[Ahaha, so you've noticed? Right, It was me. I told them to break the artifact maintaining the large barrier]

It appears that Shizuku's worst case scenario was spot on. The reason why the Majinzoku was able to arrive at the outskirts of the Kingdom without being spotted and easily breaking through the large barrier, everything was due to Eri. Eri's line of sight was interestly looking at the soulless soldiers and knights that were standing by her side, she would probably let them do it.

[If I killed you guys, I wouldn't be able to stay in the Kingdom any longer…..That's why you see, I contacted the Majinzoku, guiding the Kingdom to destruction through the people from another world*This line's iffy, 王都への手引きと異世界人の殺害*, I'll send the knights which I turned into puppets to the devil's lands as tributes, then it'll only be me and Kouki-kun left around]
[Impossible...to contact the Majinzoku…]

Kouki somehow recovered from the shock of the kiss, he muttered with an expression which that showed he couldn't believe it. Eri had been training together with them at the Kingdom for a long time. Inside of the large barrier the Majinzoku wouldn't be able to get in, it shouldn't be possible to contact them, he began rebutting out poor arguments while trying to believe in Eri.

However, Eri easily shatters his hopes.

[The Majinzoku woman who attacked us at **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]**. While leaving I quickly did it, Necromancy that is? As I expected, the Majinzoku came to recover her body, so I used it. From that situation, I definitely got cold feet. If what I proposed was rejected and I was murdered instead…..unintentionally, I had used Necromancy…..I didn't want to be doubted so I showed my necromancy to increase their impressions…..ma~a, in the end everything was alright….]

According to Eri's words, she performed Necromancy on the Majinzoku woman, and left a message for the Majinzoku who would come and look for her since she didn't return. Due to this, Mikhail had known how Cattleya had died. In addition, she communicated with the Majinzoku through a suitable "human's" dead body.

When Eri's story was heard, Shizuku remembered about Eri's Necromancy and her face which was already pale from blood loss became even paler.

Necromancy was magic which acts on residual thoughts(. . . .)of the corpse. She concealed the fact that she could actually use it perfectly. If that's so, all the knights and soldiers who looked soulless that were surrounding Shizuku and them, the worst possible situation came to her mind when she thought about Nia who was holding her down.

[The reason...for these guys...appearances is…..]
[Of course it's because of Necromancy~. Everyone is already dead~. Ahahahahahaha!]

Shizuku grit her teeth as she was told the cruel answer and a desperate rebuttal was voiced.

[...That's a lie...the undead...cannot talk back…….They shouldn't...be able to!]
[Look, that's because of my ability? Through some memory and thought patterns during their lifetime being added in they became able to talk. It was my original through Necromancy "Bind Soul" I guess? Ah, even then the sense of incongruity remains huh. I wasn't able to carry through with everything within a day, there I began to worry about what to do…..one day, a person offered their cooperation. A beautifully silver haired person. I was surprised that my plan was found out, in that instant, I prepared my resolution for various things…..It wasn't certain that I was being accused at the time, although I couldn't trust them I could at least take advantage of them instead~]

Really, in such a hurry~, Eri pretended to be wiping away her sweat. Most likely, there might have been various processes which had to take place, but she didn't show any signs of explaining them out.

[Actually, I accidentally got my hands on the King's close aid so I'm great right? In return he became like a dangerous drugged person though. Ma~a, thanks to that I was able to quickly push forward my plans. Kufufu, it's alright! I won't waste everyone's deaths. I'll properly~, recycle them and allow the Majinzoku to use them!]

Originally, they only act on residual thoughts through necromancy, but if you take in the consideration of the dead person's intent while still alive, the residual thought's would be coated in magic as they're brought back to life, they'll move exactly as the magician wants, alternatively in a way where techniques are used to possess a corpse and make it do the magicians bidding.

Their performance is normal, it's uncompared to while they're alive, they won't move unless directed since they have no thinking ability of their own. Of course, if you give an order like "Keep attacking" they'll continue, they're able to keep moving even without detailed instructions.

In other words, when Nia and José talked with Shizuku and them, they had no ability to think, it should be impossible through necromancy. That's why there was a sense of incongruity, the technique which Eri called "Bind Soul", it's a technique which adds memory and thought patterns of thinking into the corpse through extracting the remains of the spirit.

This was basically an ability to interfere with the soul. That is, Eri managed to work hard and step into the realm of the Age of God's magic on her own. Definitely a cheat, she often said that she was unsuited for Necromancy, that amount of studying and genius-class talent is definitely something that deserves astonishment. Alternatively, it may be due to her immense drive towards her obsession.

By the way, the reason why Eri didn't immediately kill her classmates was because "Bind Soul" could only be used once at a time immediately after death.

[Gu~u...stop it...Eri! If you do those things…..I…..]
[Won't forgive me? Ahaha, I thought you'd say so. Kouki-kun is kind-hearted right. Besides, no matter how much garbage I clean up….that's why, I'll also properly use "Bind Soul" on Kouki-kun, I'll be able to turn you into mine? No one elses, only looking at me, carrying out my every wish! Only my Kouki-kun! A~a, a~a! Just imagining it makes me feel like cuming!]

Eri began to embrace herself and writhe her body with a nympholeptic expression. There was no longer the appearance of the calm girl who was in the book committee. All the classmate's thought. She's gone insane. "Bind Soul" was a skill specifically made to ease and further increase the Necromancer's convenience in giving out instructions, however there is no change that a puppet is only a puppet. Once you understood that, still, she didn't seem to mind that kind of Kouki.

[Lies….that's a lie! Uu, Eririn is, th….there's no way Eri would do this! ...surely....something… right….she's only being manipulated! Come to your senses Eri!]

Suzu who was Eri's best friend shouted out with a distorted expression while panting in pain. She was scratching at the grounds with her hands as if she was trying to crawl towards Eri. Eri turned towards Suzu and looked her straight in the eye with a smile. And she slowly walked towards the closest person who was laying on the ground, Kondo Reiichi.

Kondo possibly felt a bad premonition, [Hi~], he let out a scream while trying to get even a little bit further away from Eri who was approaching. Naturally, he was perfectly held down, the only thing he could do was scream as his magic was sealed as well.

Eri who came besides Kondo which caused him to once again tremble with fear, and gave him a smile. Kouki and them were raising their voices, [Stop!] [Stop it!].

[St, stop!? Ga~a, ah, agua…]

Kondo's muffled screams began to break out. The sword was once again stabbed into Kondo's back but this time, where his heart was. For a little while, though Kondo struggled and showed tenacity because of his strong status, his movements quickly became feeble, and…..he stopped moving altogether.

Eri placed her hands on Kondo and began to mutter a chant. After she completed the chant and muttered the magic name "Bind Soul", a semitransparent Kondo overlapped with his own corpse.

Just after that, the knight who was holding down Kondo got up and moved back one step. Kouki and them were waiting anxiously, Kondo whose heart should have been destroyed, slowly lifted his body up, he stood up with a soulless expression just like the surrounding soldiers and knights.

[Yes~. One puppet's been completed~]

Eri's bright voice resounded as the other students looked at Kondo with surprise as he stood still silently and expressionlessly. Just now, one person was finally killed, towards the scene of death they couldn't even voice out their thoughts.

[E, Eri….why…..]

Towards Suzu who voiced out a question with a shocked expression, Eri voiced out the worst possible conclusion.

[Ne~e, Suzu? Thank you? Japan and even here, you were very convenient to use to stay nearby Kouki-kun?]
[.....Eh?]
[I give up? The atmosphere between Kouki-kun as he was around Shizuku and Kaori was too much. If you approached carelessly, other women would drill holes into you…..because we had no powers on that side, it was a matter of time before you'd self-destruct for getting close. In that respect, I was thankful for Suzu's existence. You seemed to be bright no matter how foolishly used and exposed you were? Even if I approached Kouki and them no one would complain about it. Thats why, the position of "Suzu Tanimura's best friend" was truly convenient. Thanks to you, I was able to stay close to Kouki-kun over on the other side and even when in a different world we got to be in the same party….. un, Suzu was really~ convenient! That's why, thank you!]
[.....Ah, uu, ah…..]

From the shock of Eri's confession, the sounds of something breaking within Suzu ranged out. Suzu learned that her best friend which she had been together with and believed in all the time, was nothing more than a fantasy. Even the light of the escapism within her eye disappeared.

[Eri~! You're-!]

Towards the overboarding words, Shizuku yelled out in anger. Nia who was turned into a puppet pulled up Shizuku's head by her hair and pounded it onto the ground. However, as if she was stating, what about it, Shizuku's eyes flared up in anger.

[Fufu, you're angry huh? That expression that you've got is very good. I extremely hated you. Your face fit in so naturally besides Kouki-kun and even your eyes carried a sense of condescending attitude, I hated everything about you. That's why, for you in particular, I'll be giving you a special role]
[....a role….you say?]
[Kufu, ne~e? What kind of feelings would you have for killing your best friend after finally meeting together after a long time?]

From those words, Shizuku's eyes opened widely as she guessed what Eri was planning to do.

[...It can't be, Kaori!?]

As if saying, You did well!, Eri began clapping her hands together with a smirk on her lips. While using Shizuku as a puppet, Eri was going to try and murder Kaori.

[It was alright to just leave her with Nagumo but…..there's a person who said, I would love to have that person as a puppet! I had been helped in various ways, so I decided to give them their reward. I'm someone who goes through with their promises after all! I'm such a good woman right?]
[Quit joking around! Gofu~...aguu~a!?]

While enraged, Shizuku who tried to move only managed to voluntarily enlarge the wound which was inflicted on her, Nia's blade sunk further in.

[Aha, is it painful? hurts? I'm kind-hearted so. Right now, I'll relieve you of your pain…..]

This time it appears to be Shizuku's turn, with a smirking smile she compromised. Kouki and them desperately tried to resist as an illusion of Shizuku becoming a puppet like Kondo came into their minds.

Kouki's resistance in particular was much more intense, while desperately raising his voice, cracks began to appear on the 5 magic sealing shackles which were on him. Did he use "Limit Breakthrough" and "Supremacy Dispersal*Probably wrong but I'm keeping it lol, 覇潰*", terrifying pressure began to overflow from his body.

However, the knights whose brain limiters were removed showed extreme strength uncomparable towards their lifetime and perfectly

held down his joints, it wasn't possible to immediately shake them off. Kouki's expression became crossed with despair.

Shizuku was desperately focused her conscious which was fainting because of the amount of blood she was losing, she decided that until the final moment, she would continue staring directly into Eri's eyes with fierce anger until she averted her eyes.

At that, Eri looked down on her with a smirk on her lips, did she want to perform the last rites herself in the end, she received a sword from a nearby knight.

[See you later then? Shizuku. Pretending to be your friend seemed to make me want to puke?]

Though Shizuku was staring at Eri, inside of her heart she was looking towards her best friend. Although she knows it'll likely not reach her, still, thinking about the tragedy that was to come in the future, she gave her prayers to her best friend who was on a trip somewhere in the world.
(I'm sorry, Kaori. The next time we meet, please do not trust me…..stay alive…..obtain happiness…..)

The knights sword which was invertedly held in her hand reflected the moonlight and shined. And, as if driving a wooden stake into a vampire, the sharp tip of the sword was brought down quickly towards Shizuku's heart.

While watching the approaching danger, Shizuku prayed. Please allow my best friend to survive, please allow her to obtain happiness. Although I'll be going on ahead, the dead me would end up hurting you, but because *he* is near you I'm sure you'll be alright. Live strongly, gain happiness with your beloved person….please…..

Fadingly, the world began to pass by slowly within Shizuku's mind within that moment. Ah, this is my life flashing before my eyes….finally,

Shizuku began to think that the sword would now pierce through, her life

…….was not taken.

[Eh?]
[Eh?]

Eri's voice sounded out along with Shizuku's.

The knights sword which Eri brought down was stopped by a barrier which was the size of a palm. The two who were completely stunned at what had happen, heard the voice of someone which should not have been there. Being driven into a corner, the voice was full of impatience. It was the person who Shizuku was wishing happiness for, her best friend's voice.

[Shizuku-chan!]

Chapter 106: Light of Condemnation
[Shizuku-chan!]

Along with the voice, before she noticed 10 shining barriers were created and protected her. And within those, there were also lights which cut in between Nia and Eri that bursted out! Should it have been called, barrier burst or something, it was a technique which makes the magical power contained within the barriers go out of control and bursts out light as well as letting loose the remains of the barrier.

[~!?]

Eri immediately covered her face with both of her arms but, she was blown back after flinching due to the bright light which caused her to lose her balance as the remains of the barrier rammed into her.

Nia who was holding down Shizuku was also similarly blown back. Although she immediately got back up to try and restrain Shizuku, before that, a rope of light grew out from the ground and bounded her.

Shizuku was completely dumbfounded at the current situation and turned towards the voice which called out her name.

And from within the gaps of the knights who were surrounding them, she caught the appearance of her best friend which shouldn't have been here. It was not an illusion. Kaori was definitely looking at Shizuku with a grief expression. Surely with the sight of Shizuku and everyone elses tragic state, being able to just barely make it in time has allowed her eyes to loosen up in relief.

[Ka, Kaori...…]
[Shizuku-chan! Wait for a bit! I'll help you right away!]

Kaori's voice sounded out desperately towards Shizuku and them who were surrounded by soldiers as she appeared from the entrance of the plaza. Then, she quickly started chanting full-heal recovery magic. It was the first-class recovery magic of the light system, "Sacred Text". From her classmate's current state and the situation, she judged that she should quickly heal all members.

[~!? Why are you here! You guys sure are set on getting in my way!]

Eri gave out orders to the knights as her face distorted in anger. The knights all attacked Kaori together in order to stop her chant.

However, Kaori was not hurt, the swords that the knights were wielding were stopped by a barrier of light.

[Everyone! What exactly happened! Return to your senses! Eri! What exactly does this mean!?]

Having protected Kaori who was chanting the first-class recovery magic, Ririana soon appeared right behind Kaori. A sphere-like barrier wrapped around Kaori and herself in order to defend themselves.

Ririana was extremely confused as the situation was that the knights and soldiers were trying to kill Kouki and them and they were also following Eri's commands. While placing up the barrier she called out to question Eri. However Eri wasn't listening at all.

Ririana's techniques were definitely of the higher class. Being able to cover an entire caravan in a barrier and holding out against the attacks of over 40 bandits. That's why, even if the knights delivered severe attacks with their limiters removed, it was definitely capable of holding out until Kaori's chant was finished.

And, because Eri understood that, her expression showed impatience.

[Chi, it can't be helped I guess?]

Was it because of impatience? Eri gave up on turning her classmates into puppets and decided to kill them all off before they were healed.

Then, at that time, suddenly before Ririana's eyes, one of the knights who brandished his sword against the barrier was beheaded and collapsed onto the ground.

The one who appeared behind the fallen knight was…...Daisuke Hiyama.

[Shirasaki! Princess Ririana! Are you alright!]
[Hiyama-san? With such an awful wound, you-!?]

Ririana's face turned pale as she saw Hiyama's state. Although her chant wasn't interrupted, Kaori's eyes also opened up widely. That was to be expected as Hiyama's chest was drenched in blood. No matter how you

looked at it, he had desperately and recklessly tried to escape from his restraints.

He shook violently and staggered, Ririana quickly removed part of the barrier and allowed Hiyama who had his hand placed on the barrier, inside. With a thump, Hiyama fell down. However in that moment, Shizuku's impatient shout resounded out.

[Don't! Get away from him!]

She warned them desperately while vomiting out blood. Shizuku had noticed. Why was only Hiyama able to break out of the restraints when even Kouki couldn't and who was the person that Eri talked about who wanted Kaori…….It was clear that Ririana's barrier would stay in place until Kaori's chant was finished. Despite all that, the only person who would pretend to help out…..

[Kya~aa!?]
[Agu~u!?]

Shizuku's warning was not on time.

Ririana's barrier disappeared, what was seen there was the appearance of Ririana who was embracing Kaori's back closely had been knocked down onto the ground and a sword ran through Kaori's chest.

[Kaoriiii--!]

Shizuku's scream echoed out.

With an crazed look in his eyes, Hiyama had embraced Kaori's back closely with his face buried onto her neck. What was in his hands behind Kaori was obviously a sword which pierced through her heart.

Hiyama was never injured in the first place. He had been pretending while preparing in the case that Kouki's explosive powers as the hero

allows him to break free. And though he was surprised at Kaori's and Ririana's appearance, he judged that at the rate things were going, Kouki and them would get healed and decided to act.

[Hihi~, finally, I've finally obtained it. …..As expected, I'm better than Nagumo? Yeah, that's right? Na~a, Shirasa….no, Kaori? Na~a? Gihi~, oi, Nakamura, hurry up already. The contract]

Eri shrugged her shoulders towards Hiyama's words. And in order to place "Bind Soul" onto Kaori she approached.

Right afterwards, a scream resounded out.

[Gaa~aaaa! You guys--!!]

Kouki was. Desperately trying to break out of the restraints even as his body creaked as his anger was at his boiling point. He had thought that Kaori had been killed and seems to have lost himself. The cracks on the 5 magic sealing shackles began to gradually grow larger. It was extraordinary strength. However, it was still not enough to be released from the knight's restraints.

Then, as Hiyama relaxed as he saw that, a low muttered voice could be heard in his ear. If you looked, it was Kaori who was muttering even after receiving a fatal wound. Hiyama became anxious and brought his ear closer to her mouth. And what he heard was……

[----------at...the...end of….the...year, I...smile…"Sacred...Text"]

Even with a mortal wound, she completed the first-class magic. Kaori's magic was casted through will power. Hiyama's eyes were opened wide in astonishment.

Kaori herself should have realized that a fatal wound was inflicted onto her. Despite it all, till the last breath what she muttered were not cries of

lament, nor calling out the name of a precious person…..she decided to fight.

Kaori had thought about it. *He*, the person who she fell for, no matter the situation and no matter the opponent, he fought without giving up. If so then, she who wished to stand next to him could not expose such ungracefulness. And with barely any consciousness left, with just her strong desires to finish chanting the magic, it has definitely been completed in exchange for her life.

Ripples of light began to spread out from Kaori. In the blink of an eye it ran throughout the plaza and resulted as a powerful heal for those that were injured. The swords were being pushed out by the healing light. For some reason the puppet's movements also became more dull.

Naturally, the light of healing also affected Kaori, though the wound was being healed, the injury that Kaori received was through a vital place unlike the others. Moreover, as the wound was closing up Hiyama frantically gouged into her wound and she wasn't healed at all. With that, Kaori was certain to die.

[Ahhhhhhh!!]

Kouki's scream gushed out.

With his body healed he could perform at his best, with that the shackles that were already cracked were all destroyed as if they were fragile things. At the same time, pure-white light radiated intensely from his body, expressing his anger. With the intense torrent of light, Kouki had raised his stats by a magnitude of 5. It was the final derivation of "Limit Breakthrough", "Supremacy Dispersal".

[I'll never…..forgive you guys!]

Although the knights were trying to restrain Kouki, Kouki easily snatches the sword of the knight which stabbed him and easily cut the

puppet into two. Then, held out his hand to retrieve his sacred sword which was taken from him, the sacred sword rotated throughout the air and flew into Kouki's hand.

Eri was expressionless, puppet soldiers were rushing at him but Kouki easily cut them into two. He shouldn't be able to overcome the feelings of murder. However, right now with the intense fury of losing a comrade, he recognized that his opponents were already dead so there was no hesitation in his sword.

On the other hand, the front-lines group gathered around the other classmates and the fight to protect the stay-behind group began. No matter how many they took down they were still surrounded once again by puppet soldiers, there was also no time to remove the magic sealing shackles so their fight was based purely on physical strength. Ryutaro and Nagayama literally became a meat wall, they desperately tried to protect the stay-behind group which were trembling.

Shizuku desperately attempted to get to Kaori's place with a tearful expression. However, just like Ryutaro and them she was still in shackles, waves of puppet soldiers attacked and she wasn't able to easily advance ahead.

At that time, Kouki had finally beaten the puppet soldiers which surrounded him. With an angered look, Kouki glared angrily at Hiyama and Eri and quickly advanced.

But, there, Eri's trump card which took advantage of Kouki's weak point appeared. As a result, just as Eri predicted, Kouki's sword stopped.

Kouki called out towards that trump card in a shaking voice.

[It, it can't be…..even...Meld-san…..]

Right, the reason why Kouki's sword stopped in its place was because it was Meld Roginsu, leader of the knights.

[.....Kouki...why, are you pointing your sword at me...I didn't teach you such things...]
[Na~...Meld-san…..I]
[Kouki! Don't listen! Meld-san has already-!]

Shizuku's voice scolded at Kouki who was shaken. When he regained his senses, Meld's sword was already approaching. Immediately he used his sacred sword to receive the blow. Along with the terrific shockwave, Kouki legs shook*probably wrong but I think it's somewhat close? 光輝の足元に亀裂が走った*. It appears that the kingdom's strongest knight has had his limiter removed.

[.....Meld-san…...I'm sorry!]

Although Kouki's expression twisted in sorrow, he swung his sacred sword in intense waves towards Meld. Even while dead, Meld's swordsmanship was still great, he barely managed to get by Kouki's attacks while he used "Supremacy Dispersal". Because of Meld's appearance, Kouki's boiling head had cooled down a little, his sword attacks which ignored feelings of murder began to dull. However, even still Meld shouldn't be able to beat the current Kouki, finally Meld's sword was flung away.

Kouki instantly closed in and side swept at Meld's neck with his sacred sword.

But, before the sacred sword dug into Meld's neck,

[.....Help me…..Kouki]
[~!?]

Kouki's sword stopped unintentionally after hearing Meld's words. Even though it might be impossible, maybe, Meld might not have actually been killed and is only being manipulated? Isn't it still possible to help him? He was unable to throw away such thoughts.

This was Kouki's weak point. In short, it was half-heartedness. If you're going to help, then help. If you're going to kill, then kill. You can choose either one but resolution and determination are needed. Kouki had none of that. Based on the information presented to him, a convenient interpretation of the situation occured. That's why, though he usually doesn't doubt his righteousness, he loses himself at the most crucial times.

Meld used his foot to bounce up the knights sword which was on the ground. In an instant with the hand which gripped the sword, he once again crossed swords with Kouki. However, Kouki didn't have the overwhelming drive from awhile ago, rather Meld was the one who was pushing.

[~!? Gaha~!]

After somehow managing through Meld's attacks, Kouki's body lost its strength and his knees gave out. It was not due to the time limit of "Supremacy Dispersal". That much time hasn't passed by yet. The incident didn't stop with just that, finally he even began to vomit out loads of blood. The blood soaked into the ground and Kouki's confusion increased greatly.

[Fuu~, it's finally kicking in. It was quite the strong poison….as expected of Kouki-san. If I didn't prepare Meld-san I would have lost]

Towards Eri's relaxed voice, Kouki desperately tried to support up his body with a questionable expression.

[Kufufu, with the cause of the prince kissing the princess, if the princess kisses the prince he'll fall into a slumber (Killed) and become hers…..there's that kind of development as well right? Ma~a, even I have some preparations in case of emergencies~]

With those words Kouki had realised. The kiss that Eri gave him in the beginning. In that moment, she likely made both of them take in poison. Eri herself may have taken the antidote earlier. He never would have thought that he'd be fed poison through mouth-to-mouth. Let alone being able to imagine what someone in love would do. Kouki once again was reminded of the fact that the Eri that everyone had known was nowhere to be seen.

With the poisons effects, Kouki was completely unable to move, Eri laughed out satisfyingly and then turned around to walk towards Kaori once again. Because soon the time limit for "Bind Soul" will be over. Hiyama demanded Eri with an ogre-like form.

Kaori was dead and about to be defiled. With that Kouki and Shizuku were both furious with anger, and with a regretting expression Shizuku was about to charge straight in.

However, Eri had already placed her hand over Kaori. Eri began chanting the spell. After several tens of seconds, the Kaori puppet which will obey all of Hiyama's words will be completed. Shizuku and their expressions flared up in anger, Hiyama was laughing loudly, and Eri was smiling with a smirk.

Then…...a voice which betrayed the battlefield that was filled with despair and betrayal sounded out.

[.....What the heck is going on?]

It was the boy with white hair and an eyepatch, Hajime Nagumo's voice.

Towards Hajime's appearance, as if time stopped, everyone's movements ceased. This was because Hajime's ferocious pressure was being emitted.

Normally the puppet soldiers which had no emotions shouldn't have stopped due to Hajime's pressure being released but, Eri who was their

spiritualist was overwhelmed by the natural feeling of the weak instinctively concealing themselves as the strong came around which in turn caused the puppet soldiers to also do the same.

Hajime was completely unphased at the hundreds of eyes gazing at him and he began to check out the surrounding circumstances. A large amount of soldiers and knights were attacking his classmates, his classmates were grouped up and formed a circle, Meld was in front of Kouki who was on the ground and vomiting out blood, pounding her knee with a black katana in one hand was Shizuku, Eri and Hiyama who became stiff, and…...Hiyama while embracing onto Kaori was holding onto the sword which secured that Kaori's life had ceased……

The moment he saw her appearance, an out-of-this-world terrifying presence instantly appeared at the plaza. As if insects were crawling throughout their entire body, inside it felt like their hearts were being clenched directly and left them uncomfortable, they trembled frightenly against the presence. The presence of overwhelming death. It was exactly like their blood had frozen. For an instant their bodies lost its temperature and the heavy murderous intent made them envision their deaths.

In an instant, Hajime's appearance disappeared.

And Hajime who was moving at a pace which no one could comprehend had appeared besides Kaori with a roaring sound. The roaring sound was caused by Hiyama being flung back and ramming straight into the back wall of the plaza and destroying it. In an instant Hajime had kicked Hiyama in the chest and sent him flying without influencing Kaori at all.

Normally, one blow would be enough to cause Hiyama's entire body to burst apart, however because he held back a bit it only caused numerous bones to break and damage to the internal organs. By now he should have fainted in the wall, once he wakes up again from the pain, the hell would likely once again begin.

Hajime held up Kaori with one arm and cleared her face of her hair. Then, with a loud voice he called out to his comrade.

[Teio! I'm counting on you!]
[~.....Umu, leave it to me!]
[Shi, Shirasaki-san~!]

In response towards Hajime's request, Teio quickly rushed over towards them. Aiko's complexion changes as she also came towards Kaori's side. Once Teio was handed Kaori by Hajime she quickly began chanting.

[Ahaha, it's useless. She's already dead. I would have never expected that you guys would be coming here…..no, the moment Kaori appeared I should have noticed. …...Un, it seems like it's already over for Hiyama, I'll give it to you? As long as you're not hostile against me, I'll bring Kaori back to life with magic for you. It wouldn't be genuine but, she'll stay pretty like now? It's better than rotting right? Ne?]

Radiantly, Eri proposed her suggestion while sweating from her forehead. Disregarding Aiko whose eyes were opened up widely in astonishment by his side, Hajime abruptly got up. Eri who knew of Hajime's strength, held out her hands as she clicked her tongue secretly while emphasizing that Kaori would just be rotting if left alone.

But, Hajime's overflowing murderous intent wasn't shaken one bit, expressionlessly like wearing a Noh mask he slowly walked towards Eri.

[Wait, wait a bit, Nagumo. Come on, look at the surrounding people? There's not much difference between them and the living? Although it can't be helped that she's dead, at the very least I could make her like them? Furthermore, I can create a Kaori that you like? For that you'll absolutely need me…..]

Eri was rapidly speaking as she backed away.

Then, at that time, a shadow was running up behind Hajime. A blow from a sharp spear which was uncomparable to the other puppet soldiers shot at him. The shadow's identity was Kondo Reiichi. It was the spear user that was pitifully killed by Eri earlier and turned into a puppet.

To begin with, although I say puppet, it still exhibited the strength of a cheat which came from a different world. The powerful thrust incorporated with Kondo's class "Spear Master*I think, it might just be spear user? 槍術師*" was spiraling with wind straight towards Hajime's heart.

[Ahaha, Carelessness is our greatest enemy~. As well as rage o-.....]

Eri's expression of impatience was quickly changed into one of a smirk but, as if Hajime didn't feel a thing he continued walking which caused her expression to cramp up. Hajime had probably already knew what was coming up from behind. A mass of red magical power was compressed to the size of a 10 yen coin and completely held off the spear which was thrusted out. It was the derivation of "Vajra", "Intensive Strengthening".

Hajime silently turned his left elbow towards his back and without any hesitation, he shot with his shotgun. A roaring sound resounded and at the same time, Kondo who received the attack of great power from super point-blank range in the face, had his head turned into small chunks and blown away. The sound of blood splattering and splashing around was heard clearly.

[~.....Kill him]

With a steep expression, Eri ordered the next puppet soldiers and Meld. Although not as much as Kouki, Hajime had held some intimacy with Meld, at the **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]** it was to the point of using a potion to heal him who was near death. Therefore, she intended to use the chance which exposes itself through hesitation just like it did with

Kouki. The puppet soldiers were waiting eagerly for that opening to be exposed.

However, that kind of common-sense judgement won't work on Hajime.

While disregarding Meld who was coming at him, Hajime took out Metsurai from his "Treasure Warehouse". All of the sudden from out of no where, the form of brutal weapons appeared and caused everyone present to hold their breaths.

Immediately, Shizuku shouted out.

[Everyone! Lie down!]

Ryutaro and Nagayama while crouched down, dragged down students that were still standing onto the ground.

Immediately after that, with the unique rotation sound and shooting sound resounding out, the incarnation of destruction roared out. It was once used to completely crush all golems that the liberator manipulated, turned huge crowds of demons into a sea of blood, the fangs of the monster which offsetted even the silver feathers of death which "God's Apostle" shot out. That kind of thing was released, there was no way the puppet soldiers would be able to withstand it.

The electrically charged bullets weren't lukewarm enough to just be said to have shot just one person, it went and broke through all obstacles, while blowing away the plaza wall as if it were just paper trash, with Hajime as the center, everything was being cut down. The puppet soldiers bodies were crushed, reduced into lumps of flesh which scattered around and could not be distinguished at all.

Before long, Metsurai's roaring stopped and once again foot steps echoed in the silent plaza. Everyone who was laying down on the ground were motionless, naturally the one who was walking after the attack which mowed down everything in its path was Hajime.

Everyone else was similarly desperately lowering their heads until the storm passed by, the tip of shoes appeared in front of Eri's eyes. Eri slowly raised her face. She glanced up at the owner of the shoes, what she saw there was a pair of eyes which looked at her as if she was just a pebble on the roadside without value. Hajime no longer carried Metsurai in his hands. He was simply standing above Eri and looking down on her.

Eri couldn't say anything and only returned the gaze with an aghast expression, then Hajime slowly began to open his mouth.

[And?]
[~.....]

Hajime had no further information on what Eri had done. He just simply understood that she was an enemy. If it was simply an enemy then all he had to do was mercilessly murder it and everything would end. However, Eri had touched something which she should have never touched. It was already at the point where just killing her wasn't enough anymore. Before she died, she needs to feel "despair".....

That's why Hajime asked her a question. What else can you do? You can't do anything huh?

Eri accurately understood what he meant and began to tightly grit her teeth. The edge of her lip had a cut and blood was dripping down. Up until now she was the owner of this place, she should have been in the position with an overwhelming advantage, however, in an instant Hajime had unreasonably overturned that which caused her to hold hatred and awe.

The moment that Eri was about to unintentionally curse out passionately at him, the muzzle of a gun was suddenly pushed against her forehead.

Eri swallowed up her curses as the quick draw was so quick, she wasn't even able to comprehend when it was pulled out.

[.....Whatever your motive was, I have no intentions of hearing any of those worthless things. If you've got nothing left to show then…..die]

Hajime's finger began to pull on the trigger. The Hajime in Eri's eyes right now was someone who would murder his own classmates himself and realised that even if she had turned Kaori into a puppet he wouldn't have even hesitated.

------I'm dead.

Eri's head was completely filled up with those words. However, Eri's devilish luck seems to have not run out yet.

The moment when Eri's head was about to splatter, a flame bullet came flying towards Hajime. It's flames had a considerable amount of power in them. However, it obviously didn't work against Hajime. He turned Donner's muzzle towards the flame bullet and with pinpoint accuracy, he shot through it's core and it easily dispersed.

[Naaguumooo-!!]

From the interior of the dispersing flame bullet was Hiyama who was covered in wounds, and it was doubtful if he was capable of human speech anymore as he was calling out Hajime's name in an odd tone. With a sword in his hand, a large amount of blood being vomited out of his mouth, and his right shoulder broken and badly damaged which hung down as he aimlessly flung himself at Hajime. He no longer looked like an impudent ogre, now he only looked like some kind of ugly variant of a creature.

[.....Shut up]

Hajime braced himself like it was a hassle as Hiyama ran up and performed a worthless kick. Dogon~! an explosion sounding like a sonic boom resounded and Hiyama's body was floating in the air. He wasn't blown away because the shockwave wasn't allowed to leave his body.

Then as Hiyama was just floating in the air, Hajime lifted his leg up towards the sky, and swung it down with intense force. It was exactly like his heel drop was an axe swung down to chop firewood, it mercilessly struck Hiyama's head and threw him onto the ground. The ground cracked because of the impact and Hiyama's fresh blood from his head was splattering into those cracks. Hiyama who bounced up like a brick was already white eyed and lost his consciousness.

Anyone who saw him could see that he was already barely alive. However, Hajime had a quality which wouldn't let up. His bouncing head was once again kicked upwards to float in the air. Was something secretly carried out? With that impact, Hiyama regained his consciousness.

Hajime gripped Hiyama's neck and raised him up into the air. Hiyama who was hanging in midair was violently thrashing around without any power, Hajime who had inhumane strength was unphased.

[Yo"u! Iz not fo yo"u, Gaori wud, be mine!]

He was overflowing with grudge and murderous intent. It was shivering to think that a human could fall this low with ugliness. Would an ordinary man divert his eyes away? They would likely be overcome by feelings of sickness and run away.

However, Hajime didn't show that kind of reaction towards Hiyama's. Rather on the contrary, Hajime's eyes held pitty.

[No matter if I existed or not, the results would have been the same. At the very least, with your nature nothing would have happened even if

the world was overturned]*I think, お前が何かを手に入れられる事なん 天地がひっくり返ってもねぇよ*
[Iz's yor fault]
[Don't place the blames on others. The reason you fell so low was your own fault. Even in Japan and over here, you were always the loser. not "someone else". it was "yourself". All you did was criticise everyone else in dissatisfaction while not shouldering anything for yourself. …..you're a genuine underdog]
[I'lr kill ju! Desinitely, jus you!]

Hiyama became further enraged and insane from Hajime's words. After Hajime looked at the underdog who continued to lose himself, he noticed something in the distance and looked towards it. What was over in that direction was the vanguard of demons who invaded the Kingdom.

Hajime returned his cold gaze onto Hiyama, then once again threw him up into the air, and with a blow from his artificial arm he hit where Hiyama was falling down according to gravity. Rotational force was applied in with the impact and Hiyama began rotating like a top.

[Let's test if you can survive or not. Ma~a, it's probably impossible for you]

Hajime also hammered him with a spinning kick which caused the air to be blown away. Hiyama let out an unpleasant sound and was blown outside of the plaza by the shockwave.

Rather than quickly shooting Hiyama to death, Hajime was unconsciously avoiding his vitals and pummeled him. It wasn't revenge for dropping him into the abyss, it was revenge for injuring Kaori.

Although he doesn't know the amount of awareness the actual person in question has, Hajime began to think that just killing him off comfortably wasn't enough. That was how he thought of the idea of kicking Hiyama into the crowd of demons after just barely keeping him alive.

However, due to dealing with Hiyama, the time he had to kill Eri was shortened. Although Eri didn't run away, an aurora was shot at Hajime.

[Chi….]

Hajime jumped back while clicking his tongue and used Donner to shoot where the aurora had come from. Three explosions roared out simultaneously, like a dragon climbing up the waterfall of aurora, 3 flashes tore through the sky.

Immediately afterwards, the aurora's trajectory bent, it nearly baked Kouki but, thanks to Eri they managed to evade somehow. Even for Eri, it would be a bad joke that she didn't want any part in if kouki was completely wiped out due to friendly fire.

Soon, the aurora calmed down and Freed descended down on his white dragon.

[.....That's enough. Boy with white hair. If you don't want to lose anymore of your precious compatriots and Kingdom citizens, then settle down]

It appears that Freed was under the misconception that Hajime was fighting for Kouki and them and the Kingdom. If you looked around the surrounding area, you'd notice that demons had already surrounded Ryutaro and them, Shizuku, and aiming at Teio and Aiko.

If Hajime and them seriously fought back, there would be a great deal of collateral damage so they decided to take on hostages instead. Although Hajime doesn't know that Freed was already severely injured by Yue, Freed realized that and used this as a last resort. It should be noted that the wounds caused by Yue, although far from being completely healed, was healed by the white crow's inherent magic.

Then, at that time, as if something happened to Kaori, Teio called out loudly to Hajime.

[Master! I've somehow fixed it for now! However, any more than this…..will take time….If possible, I'd like to have Yue's cooperation as well. We can't leave it as a temporary fix forever!]

Hajime nodded powerfully as he looked behind his shoulder at Teio. The classmates who didn't understand the circumstances had dubious expressions. However, Freed who also had Age of God's magic had somehow managed to guess, he looked at Teio's magic with wide eyes.

[Ho~o, new Age of God's magic…..by chance is it **[**Kamiyama's**]**? Then it would do you well to tell me of it's location. If you defy me then y-!?]

The moment that Freed tried to threaten Hajime and them for the location of **[**Kamiyama**]** great labyrinth, flames erupted from Donner. Immediately, the turtle-type demon set up a barrier and somehow managed to endure it from being fully destroyed. Freed narrowed his eyes and the surrounding demons closed in more.

[What's the meaning of this? Are your compatriots lives not important? The more you guys resist, the more the Kingdom's citizens will suffer as well? Or are you such a fool that you can't comprehend that? There are 100,000 monsters at the outer wall and on the other side of the gate is 1 million demons. No matter how strong you guys are, continuing to fight while protecting everything is…..]

Hajime who received those words, turned his cold eyes away from freed and towards the outside of the Kingdom---an army of 100,000 was trying to invade into the Kingdom. Then, he silently took out an induction stone which was the size of a fist out of his "Treasure Warehouse". He activated the induction stone while disregarding Freed's dubious look and emitted a light which was uncomparable to the ring which manipulated the crossbitts.

Freed who started feeling an intense bad premonition, immediately shot an aurora at Hajime. However, Hajime's Donner kept them in check, as a result, he was able to activate the device.

----Light of condemnation poured down from the sky.

The pillar of light was the representative which connected the sky and the ground. Whatever it touched, no matter the race, sex, nor social class, everything was mercilessly destroyed and erased. Burning up the atmosphere and tearing through the darkness, as if it was the daylight, the sun's rays, the targets were mowed down.

Kyuwaa~aaaaaaa!!

The pillar of light as if investigating, let out a roar as it struck down onto the earth, the diameter was around 50 meters. Demons, Majinzokus, and living organisms alike were all evaporated under the light without exception, the shockwave and heatwaves were intensely scattering destruction on it's surroundings.

When Hajime poured magical power into the induction stone in his hand, the pillar of light moved through and mowed down all the demons and Majinzoku that were fleeing away on foot. Defending was useless. Evading was useless. That is unless you could travel through space like Freed, it would be impossible for organisms which ran on foot to get away. The demons and Majinzoku who were trying to invade at the outer wall saw the pillar of light approaching and they all began to panic, they desperately tried to advance onwards into the Kingdom madly.

The pillar of light zigzagged along and trampled the huge army, everything up until the outer walls were eradicated and disappeared into the void.

All that was left was the smoke which rose from where the Earth was scorched and an enormous crater. As well as deep scars which were

carved into the Earth. The Majinzoku who managed to just barely make it on time into the Kingdom(. . . .) weren't relieved, just, sitting down with their comrades in surprise that their army had completely vanished in an instant.

With that, Freed and Eri who were in front of him, Shizuku and everyone else as well, their thinking stopped and were just spacing out in utter amazement.

[The foolish one is you, you big fool. When exactly did I say that I was allied with the Kingdom and these guys here? Don't just selfishly categorize me with them. If you want a war, then go right ahead. However, if you get in my way just like now, I'll erase everything. Ma~a, I'm not free enough to waste my time on 1 million opponents though, this time around I'll let you off so hurry up with the remaining people and get lost. You're the commander of the army right?]

It was hard to object after his comrades were obliterated in an instant, Freed's eyes were dyed in rage and hatred. However, even if he created a gate and allowed his huge army to come through, he had no information on the pillar of light which Hajime shot, it would only cause to making the same mistakes once again. That alone must be avoided at all costs.

Although it was vexing for Hajime as well to let them get away, right now it was necessary to treat Kaori as soon as possible. If time goes on, they'll lose the upper hand. Much like, doing something for the first time, he was completely winging it. Furthermore, the blow from the previous light was actually a weapon in its prototype stage, after that one shot it had already broken. Without the annihilation weapon, he'd have no time to deal with a million demons. It would be a bad idea to kill Freed who was the commander of the army.

Freed who doesn't know of that, bit down onto his lips and clenched his fists so hard with rage that it started bleeding, he was thinking that he

could no longer continue sacrificing his people, and while opening up a gate, he replied back full of grudge.

[.....I'll definitely repay this debt…..only you, in my God's name, I will definitely destroy you!]

As Freed was turning back, he glanced at Eri to urge her to get onto the white dragon. Eri looked at Kouki who was surviving due to his strong status and smiled at him with a smile filled with obsessiveness and insanity. Even without words you'd know, it was the look that was filled with will of obtaining Kouki no matter what.

At the same time that Freed and Eri who were on the white dragon passed through the gate, 3 bursts of magic bullets lit up and roared through the sky. It was probably a retreat signal. At the same time, Yue and Shia came down from the sky with great force.

[.....N, Hajime. Where's that ugly man?]
[Hajime-san. Where's that scoundrel?]

It appears that both of them came chasing after Freed to beat him. They probably already knew that the pillar of light was due to Hajime so they didn't ask.

However, right now they don't have the time to deal with those simple matters. Hajime told Yue and Shia about Kaori's death. Both of them opened their eyes up in surprise. However, after looking at Hajime's eyes which contained spirit, they immediately recovered.

And then Hajime asked for Yue's help with his eyes. Yue accurately understood what she needed to do and with few powerful words, [.....N, leave it to me], she nodded.

They turned around and rushed towards Teio. Then Hajime held onto Kaori in a princess carry position and intended to leave the plaza

straight away. However just then, Shizuku called out to Hajime while staggering with a desperate expression.

[Nagumo-kun! Kaori is, about Kaori…….what should…..I…..]

Shizuku seemed to have been exhausted to a state which was never seen before, with such a grievous expression, if left alone she may suffer from mental illnesses. During battle her tensed heart was able to support her, however now that that's gone, she's probably being tormented by the pain of her best friends death.

Hajime entrusted Kaori to Shia and told her to go ahead with Teio. Yue and them who sympathized with Shizuku's expression left the plaza while being guided by Teio.

His classmates were still in a state of being unable to move, Hajime went and dropped to a knee before Shizuku who was sitting like a girl with her head dropped. And with both hands sandwiching Shizuku's cheeks, he forced her to look up until their sights aligned.

[Yaegashi, don't break. Believe in us and wait. I'll let you two meet again without fail]
[Nagumo-kun…..]

Shizuku's eyes which had lost it's light, only a bit but, power had returned. Then and there Hajime laughed while saying things which sounded like a joke.

[If Yaegashi becomes like this, who'll take care of all the troublesome things in the future? What'll happen if Kaori saw a broken Yaegashi…...please give me a break? I'm not a problem loving human like Yaegashi]
[.....Who's the problem loving human, baka. ……Believing that…..is fine right?]

Hajime smiled with an earnest expression and nodded firmly.

Up close, Shizuku was staring into Hajime's shining eyes and she understood that he was serious. He was seriously trying to do something about Kaori who should already be dead. Within those strong willed eyes, Shizuku felt that her frozen heart melted a bit.

The light within Shizuku's eyes further increased. And just like Hajime did, she nodded powerfully. Then the will to believe in Hajime and them appeared from within.

After confirming that Shizuku's risk of breaking down mentally has lowered drastically, Hajime removed a test tube container out of the "Treasure Warehouse" and placed it in Shizuku's hands.

[This is….]
[Let the other childhood friend drink it. He's in quite the bad shape]

After Hajime's words, Shizuku glanced towards Kouki who was laying on the ground. Kouki had already lost consciousness, he was visibly weakened. She recalled that the holy water which Hajime handed her was once used to immediately heal meld who was about to die, and presumed that it was the most effective medicine out of all other medicine. As for Hajime, he'd be troubled if Shizuku broke down if Kouki dies even after he said all that he did to her….after looking at Shizuku's expression it appears that she was more thankful than expected.

When Shizuku tightly grasped the container of holy water, she looked at Hajime with moistened eyes and said words of thanks, [.....Thank you, Nagumo-kun]. As soon as Hajime received those words of thanks he immediately turned around. Then he started chasing after Yue and them like the wind.

Chapter 107: Later in the Kingdom

After Hajime left the plaza, Shizuku made Kouki drink the holy water and he recovered in no time.

The puppet soldiers that Eri had, numbered up to 500 people and out of that It seems that 300 were turned into minced meat at the plaza by Hajime. Most likely the missing soldiers went with Freed through the gate into Majinzoku territory.

Although it was later found out in investigations that magic formations were created from huge magic stones which were buried in the earth on the outskirts of the Kingdom, that appears to have been the secret to Freed being able to transfer his military.

Also, it appears that the King and other influential leaders were all killed by Eri's puppet soldiers, currently, the seat of King within the Hairihi Kingdom was open. Until the confusion subsides, Ririana and the safe queen, Ruruaria, will be taking the lead in the Kingdom's reconstruction. Most likely, once they've settled down, prince Randell who was also safe, will be ascending to the throne.

The number one cause of confusion was that there was no communication with the church.

Even though the Kingdom has turned into such an amazing state, widespread uneasiness and distrust was spreading throughout the followers as the church didn't appear during or after the war at all. The truth was, everyone related to the church were already blown to smithereens by the explosion at the head temple! If the citizens heard about that, what would they think? A boy with white hair somewhere held slight interest in that question.

Also, the pillar of light which annihilated the Majinzoku's large army was, "Ehitto-sama's" light of condemnation which was released in order to save the Kingdom! is what the rumors that have been circulating says, it was an incredibly painful story that their faith was further strengthened. Hajime was wondering if he should spread rumors that it

was due to the “Goddess of Fertility” once again, however, if Aiko heard of that she’d likely suffer to no end in her mind.

People began to wonder of the reason why the church wasn’t coming down from **[**Kamiyama**]**, and naturally, they wanted to climb up to find out. However, there was far too much to be done for the reconstruction of the Kingdom, so there wasn’t anyone to go up 8,000 meters above ground. By the way, because Hajime and them stopped the lift, the only way to reach the head temple was by scaling up the mountain.

Also, Hiyama’s remains were found a little distance away from the plaza. His body was consumed and messed up here and there, after being completely beaten up by Hajime and blown out of the plaza, sure enough, he was attacked by demons.

It was thought that he was still alive when he got consumed because it appears that there were traces of intense resistance. In particular, his left arm was completely missing, judging from the traces of blood, with his left arm consumed first, he ran desperately for his life and then the side of his body was then eaten which caused him to die. If you tried to imagine it, it was likely one of the worst ways to die.

With that, a variety of things turned up and 5 days have passed since the betrayal and death of their friends from the Majinzoku’s invasion.

Its needless to say anything about Suzu who was on good terms with Eri, but the classmates who were caught up in her obsession and insanity suffered deep mental wounds. After Hiyama and Kondo’s deaths, Nakano and Saito who was always together with them became hikikomori’s.*Google if you don’t know the term*

Along with those who sustained deep mental wounds, Kouki and them were asked by Ririana and them to lend their powers in reconstructing the Kingdom in order to recuperate and recover, since that day Hajime and them had not shown up so they were frequently looking back at that.

All members of the front lines and Ai-chan bodyguards should have known of Hajime's powers but they still didn't know of the overwhelming power of the pillar of light which annihilated the large army, once again, they were forced to feel their difference in power.

Because Kouki and them knew of that, they took on less shock than the stay-behind group. Although they heard of Hajime's power from the returning members, they now knew that they had only understood 1/10,000 of Hajime's true terrifyingness. Anyone and everyone could do nothing but be concerned about Hajime, his comrades, and Kaori who he took with him.

And the remarkable one was Shizuku. Although she's doing exactly what needs to be done, once in a while she'll stare off into the distance with eyes that seem to be looking for something in her heart. It was clear to everyone that she was thinking of Kaori, the classmates who witnessed Kaori's death were unsure of what to say about it

From the talk that Hajime had with Shizuku, it seemed to have been something about Kaori coming back but, they were skeptical as the task of reviving a dead person was likely impossible and because of that they weren't able to comfort themselves.

They suspected that it was probably something just like how Eri did, she'll be brought back as a doll, in that case, it was easy to imagine that Shizuku would become further damaged because of that, especially Kouki who had always cautioned himself as he watched Hajime and them.
Kouki himself was extremely down that he was unable to do anything once again and saved twice by Hajime, the fact that Kaori left him for Hajime (Kouki recognized it within himself) was also added in, he wasn't able to hold any good feelings for Hajime.

It was, the so-called "Jealousy", however Kouki himself was not aware of it. It wouldn't be easy for him to admit it even if he had noticed it. If

he recognised it, whether he moves forwards or looks away out of convenience…...depends all on himself.

Both Kouki and Shizuku couldn't be said to have been in bright states, because Ryutaro is a muscle-for-brains he's not reliable, and all classmates were depressed in general.

At times like these, it would usually be Suzu's time to show her abilities as a mood-maker and brighten things up but, without a question the actual person is in low tensions, the smiles that shes shown occasionally were painful. It seems to be majorly due to what Eri had said to her. It's understandable. Throughout many years, the person who was thought to have been her best friend had only thought of her on the level of being a convenient tool.

Even still, the entire class hasn't completely fallen, the only person moving in order to reconstruct the Kingdom single-mindedly was probably only Aiko.

Aiko was also worried about Kaori, if she could, she'd do anything but, when weighed against what Hajime and them were trying to do, with Yue and Teio there she understood that she had no turn. That's why she couldn't neglect the students who remained damaged on the ground and decided to stay.

Because Aiko firmly had 1 on 1 communications with her students and encourage all of her students to work to their potentials, they were able to move on now.

By the way, Aiko had obviously known what had happened to the Church, although she knows more about it than anyone else, she stubbornly sealed her lips.

That was in order to not obstruct Hajime and them, and at the same time, every time she remembers what she had done, her mouth becomes heavier. Even if it was an unexpected result, her resolution to go

through with it was true. That's why, when Hajime and them came back, she planned on telling Ririana and them the truth…...police officer, it's me.

Although Aiko seemed to be behaving brightly, on the inside, she was trembling in fear. She herself aided Teio in the obliteration of the church, if the students had known that she was involved in the blast which killed Ishstar and them and the Knights then, what exactly would they think of her?

She fought because she was resolute to not allow her students to become toys of war any longer, although she doesn't regret about that matter, a murderer is a murderer. She was surely already prepared that her students would no longer call her sensei.

It should be noted that David and them, the Aiko bodyguard temple knights, were still alive and well. That was because after Aiko had disappeared, they protested to the upper brass, "Let us meet her!", many times, and after that was confirmed to never be fulfilled they decided to search for themselves, the upper brass who were fed up decided to lowered them onto ground level and restricted them from going into the head temple. And that's how they managed to barely escape from death at the head temple at the time. Currently they're listening to Aiko's words and working hard to help out with this and that for the reconstruction.

With those kinds of feelings, Aiko and the students are respectively holding their own weight in their minds and helping out with Ririana today to reconstruct the Kingdom.

Today's agenda was to reform the Kingdom's knights and employ commanders to each squad at the drilling ground. By the way, the new knight leader's name was Kuzeri Rail. It was a female knight and formerly Ririana's imperial guardsmen. The vice-commander's name was Neat Komorudo. He was the previous commander of the 3rd knight unit.

[Thanks for the hard work. Kouki-san]

During the mock battle screening test, Kouki had been working as a partner for the knights so he was wiping his sweat at the edge of the drilling grounds and those words of appreciation ranged out. When Kouki turned his line of sight towards it, Ririana was coming over with a smile.

[No, this isn't much of a big deal. …..As for yourself Riri, you've barely gotten any sleep recently huh? Really, thanks for the hard work]

When Kouki showed a wry smile in return, Ririana also showed a wry smile. Both of them hardly had any time to sleep over the past few days. To begin with, the reason why their sleeping time was cut down was due to completely different reasons.

[That's because right now is not the time to be sleeping. …..Casualties, dealing with the loss of beloved people, disposing buildings which collapsed, confirming missing people, repairing the great barrier and the outer wall, reports and communication with each district, deploying soldiers to investigate the surroundings, reorganizing…..this is serious, they're all things that need to be done. Even if I whine about it, there's no other way. Mother has also shared the burden, so I can still go on. …….The people who are truly suffering are those who lost important people and their property…….]
[If you're saying that then, even you've…..]

From what Ririana had said, Kouki tried to point out that even she's lost the King which was her father but, even if he said it, nothing would change, so he shut his mouth. Riri sympathized with Kouki's feelings and said, [I'm fine], with a smile once again, then changed the topic.

[How's Shizuku holding out?]
[.....She hasn't changed. Usually its the same usual Shizuku but, without noticing it she looks up above for a long time]

As Kouki was saying so, he glanced towards Shizuku who was talking with Kuzeri at the center of the drilling grounds.

The two were probably friends through Ririana, they seemed to be discussing something rather intimately. However, the conversation was suddenly interrupted, and naturally her eyes glanced upwards, in other words, you could tell she was looking towards the top vicinity of **[**Kamiyama**]**.

[She's…..waiting for them huh]
[That's right. …..Being honest, the thing that Nagumo said is too...untrustworthy...although I'd like for Shizuku and them to meet…*I think? this lines one of those lines where I get confused as to what they're really saying, 雫には会って欲しくないと思ってるんだけどね*]

Ririana had a slightly surprised expression as she turned her glance from Shizuku to Kouki. Kouki's expression had a complicated color, it was clear that what he said was not according to what he thought. Jealousy, suspicion, fear, pride, gratitude, antipathy, various feelings were mixed in impatiently, his expression was difficult to express.

Ririana couldn't find the right words to say to Kouki, she looked up towards the top of **[**Kamiyama**]** where Hajime and them should be.

The sky was clear, it's as if the crisis of extinction from a few days ago never happened. That sky looked as if it was in a happy-go-lucky mood, Ririana held slightly bitter feelings towards it and continued looking up at the sky.

Then at that time, she began to see a few black dots in the sky. With a doubtful look Ririana narrowed her eyes and she noticed that those black dots were gradually growing bigger, she noticed that something was falling down and panickingly she called out to Kouki by her side.

[Ko, Kouki-san! There! Isn't something falling down!]

[Eh? What are you suddenly….~, everyone! Watch out! Something's coming from above!]

Ririana's attitude surprised Kouki but, as he looked up in the sky, he confirmed that something was definitely falling down, [Get down, it's an enemy attack!], he warned out loudly with an impatient expression. Shizuku and them were panicking and quickly evacuated the drilling grounds and went beside Kouki and them, simultaneously something landed onto the drilling grounds.

Zudo~oon!!

The earth trembled when whatever was falling crashed, as the dust clouds danced about, what appeared from it was…...Hajime, Yue, Shia, and with Teio it was 4 people.

[Nagumo-kun!]

The first one to take off was Shizuku. Exactly like Hajime said, she believed in them and waited. Having excess momentum was unavoidable. However, within Hajime and them, Kaori's appearance was no where to be seen, her expression gradually became uneasy and darkened.

[Yo~o, Yaegashi. Are you living properly]
[Nagumo-kun…..where's Kaori? Why is Kaori not here?]

Shizuku relaxed somewhat after Hajime's joke, however it was the truth that Kaori was not in front of her, as expected, it must have been too hard to overturn Kaori's death, she was already unable to hide her uneasiness and asked in a trembling voice.

On the other hand, Hajime had an indescribably vague expression.

[Ah~, she'll be here soon? It's just that.....her appearance may have changed a tiny~ bit…..because of that see, it'll be troubling if you placed the blame on me, un, it's not my fault so don't get mad?]
[Eh? Wait a bit. What? What is? It makes me extremely uneasy though? What do you mean? What did you do to Kaori? Depending on the circumstance, with the black katana that you gave me…….]

Towards Hajime's words which only further fanned the flames of uneasiness, Shizuku's highlight in her eyes disappeared and she slowly began to extend her black katana on her waist. [Dudu], Hajime was suppressing Shizuku, suddenly, they began to hear a scream from the sky.

[Kyaaaa!! Hajime-k~un! Catch me~!!]

When Shizuku and them were wondering what it was and looked up, they saw something with a silver shadow falling down at blistering speeds.

With Shizuku's excellent kinetic vision, she saw a woman with silver hair and blue eyes who had the beauty that could compete with a beautiful work of art that a historically named artist produced, and against her cool appearance, she was falling down while awkwardly flinging her arms and legs with tears in her eyes and a miserable expression.

The silver haired, blue eyed woman came straight down plunging towards Hajime. From her eyes you could see that she trusted that she would be caught.

But, betraying such things were Hajime's quality. In the place where he was supposed to catch her, the moment before they collided he suddenly jumped back, [Eh?], his glance averted from the womans eyes and she crashed into the ground as if she was being consumed by the earth while becoming dot eyed.

Everyone had trembling expressions as they looked towards Hajime who had no intentions of catching her, [She's dead right?]. However, after the sand of cloud cleared up again, the beautiful woman with silver hair and blue eyes appeared, Aiko and Ririana both raised out a warning-like scream.

[Wha, why, are you……]
[Everyone! Get back! She's a dangerous person who kidnaped Aiko and lent Eri a hand!]

Towards those words, Kouki and all the other classmates at the spot, Kuzeri and all of the other knights all simultaneously picked up their weapons. Especially Shizuku who was close to Hajime and them who immediately prepared to performed a quick draw on the spot, she had piercing eyes filled with murderous intent for the person who had lent a hand in Kaori's death. If an opening appeared, she would immediately cut her down.

Towards the other party which glared at her, Nointo who had a pretty face like a work of art and silver hair with blue eyes, as if she didn't suffer any damage at all from the crash, moved agilly and easily stood up. Then for a moment she glanced at Hajime with reproachful eyes, and unbelievably she who had no emotions or expressions like a machine now carried them and panickingly she spoke towards Shizuku.

[Wa, wait! Shizuku-chan! It's me, me!]
[?]

Shizuku had a suspicious expression towards the woman who called her name on their first meeting appealing for themself.

Hajime who was by the side muttered out, [you look like shady scammer……], the woman Ki'ed! at him with a glare then looked away. It was impossible for Aiko and them to not think of her as an enemy. Although the appearance and voice was different, the strange woman's

casual gestures and atmosphere when calling out for herself was like a shadow of her best friend.

While gently relaxing her quick draw position, she spaced out and suddenly muttered the name of her best friend.

[.....Kao, ri? Are you….Kaori?]

Was she extremely glad that Shizuku had noticed that it was her? The silver haired blue eyed woman had a bright face! and replied in a lively bright voice.

[Un! I'm Kaori! Shizuku-chan's best friend, Shirasaki Kaori. Although my appearance has changed…..I'm properly living!]
[.....Kaori…..Kaori~i!]

Shizuku was stunned for a bit. Although she has no idea how things turned out the way they did, even still, with the fact that her best friend was still alive and in front of her, finally soaking in, she embraced Kaori who had obtained a new body of a silver haired blue eyed woman with all her might as she cried out tears like rain.

Kaori was also sobbing like a baby and like Shizuku she embraced her back tightly and quietly whispered gently.

[I'm sorry to have worried you? I'm fine now, I'm fine]
[Hi~gu, gusu~, I'm glad, so glad~]

They both buried their faces in each others necks and Shizuku and Kaori firmly confirmed each other's existence.

Everyone who saw it was completely stunned, for a while, the cries of warmth and tenderness resounded throughout the drilling grounds.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

[So then, what exactly does this mean?]

With eyes dyed red and swollen from tears, Shizuku's cheeks also blushed with the same amount of shame, and determined to hide her shame she demanded an explanation of the circumstances.

The current location has switched from the drilling grounds to the large room where Kouki and them usually eat at. In regards to Shizuku, it was explained that at heart she was Kaori and the body belonged to someone named Nointo, for the time being Ririana urged that they move to a calmer place. However, it wasn't only Shizuku who came, all classmates as well as Aiko and Ririana are attending.

[Well, lets see….cutting straight to the chase. Using magic, Kaori's soul was protected, Nointo's corpse? Remains? Ma~a, we restored it and took it over]
[I see…..I don't get it at all]

Shizuku just stared at hajime as he gave off his extremely simple explanation. From the stare, it was clearly saying, [Is that all there is to it? Ahh?], with an insecure look. In place of Hajime who had an expression that his motivation for explaining was 0, Kaori decided to explain with an amazed expression.

[Ehhto ne, Shizuku-chan. You know that the magic we're using now a degraded version of the forgotten magic from the past called Age of Gods magic right?]
[.....Yes. I've studied some of this world's history. Its the magic that appears in the myth about how this world was created? Rather than the current attribute magic, they were more fundamental in useage…...wait. Do you mean to say that it's that kind of thing? The Age of Gods magic that Nagumo and you guys have is the spirit type…..a power that allows you to interfere with a person's soul? With that, the spirit of the dead Kaori was protected and settled in a different body right?]
[Right! As expected of Shizuku-chan]

For some reason, Kaori was sticking out her chest proudly. In fact, the rate of Shizuku's brain being able to process things was fast. Hajime had also known of this before but, inside of himself, he was once again impressed.

[But, why in that body? Was Kaori's body no longer alright? I thought that you guys could somehow manage to heal up the wound that was inflicted on her heart with recovery magic though……]
[Ahh, the truth is, Kaori's body is completely healed and it was possible to return her soul to it]

Spirit magic was mind-blowing Age of Gods magic where you can literally stay immortally young through continuously fixating your own soul.

By "fixating" it was magic which preserved the dead spirit that was interfered with in order to not allow it to deteriorate nor disappear, at first, this was what Teio performed on Kaori. However, it was lucky that Teio made it on time because it's ineffective if several minutes have passed since death.

By "establishing", just as it says, regardless of the fixated spirit, they'll be established whether its as organic or inorganic matter. Bodies which have started decaying would still cause them to die once again even if they establish themselves because it won't be suitable for survival, however, it'll be possible with a healthy body, it's also possible to leave the wedge of time and become immortal like Miredei Raisen who established herself as a golem.

Obviously this magic isn't so simple that it can be done without proper testing and training. It was successful precisely because Yue and Teio were naturally talented at magic. Even still, it took 5 whole days to properly establish.

[Then, why…..what happened to Kaori's original body? There must have been some kind of problem then?]

[Shizuku-chan, calm down. I'll explain it properly]

While calming down Shizuku, Kaori continued to explain.

At first, Hajime had attempted to return Kaori's spirit back into her original body which they've healed with Reproduction magic.

However, the one who told him to wait was Kaori. Even while stuck in a spirit state, "Spirit Guidance" can be conducted to communicate with the soul. Kaori who was still in a spirit state, had heard of Meiredi Raisen and requested that she be placed into a golem like her. If it was Hajime, then he should be able to create a powerful golem.

At **[**Merujine Underwater Ruins], Kaori had realised her own powerlessness, she had no intentions to stay the way that she was now. She also had no intentions to give up standing next to Hajime as well. At that point, she knew that she would easily be killed. Cowardly, miserably, and mortifyingly…...if so then, she thought, "what if I tossed away my human body".

Once Kaori was resolute on something, she became surprisingly stubborn. Although Hajime and them had tried to talk her out of it, she wouldn't listen. That determination was so strong it made Hajime raise out both hands in surrender.

With no other choice, Hajime had decided to create the strongest golem he could, however, suddenly the light bulb inside of Hajime's head lit up! [I can use *that* can't I?]. Right, it was Nointo who Hajime had pierced through the heart.

After Hajime recovered Nointo's remains, Yue used Reproduction magic to restore all the wounds. The strong body of "God's Apostle" had become Kaori's new vessel, it was a great success when "establishing" the soul to it.

Unfortunately, although the organ-like magic stone which supplied an infinite supply of magical power was reproduced, it was not functioning, however, Nointo's inherent magic "Decomposition", her dual wielding swords and skills, silver wings and feathers were useable.

It appears that Nointo's body remembers all previous combat experiences and knows how to use it, although she's unable to fly right now because the body is still new, once she gets accustomed to it, she'll likely be able to exert "God's Apostle's" true abilities. Now that she can directly manipulate magic, she's well qualified to be shoulder to shoulder with Hajime and them.
Kaori who was happy that her spirit was successfully established onto the body was an incredibly amazing sight. After all, she had the appearance of a cool beauty and she was making a fuss with "Kya, Kya" noises and a big smile. The opponent which Hajime was just fighting with not too long ago was making such a happy face and in addition she was clinging onto him, as expected, even Hajime didn't know this would happen and his eyebrows turned into a ハ.

By the way, Kaori's real body was being stored in the "Treasure Warehouse" while receiving Yue's freezing treatment. A beauty frozen in ice created a very mysterious feeling. Since cells that are ruined after being thawed out can be restored by Reproduction magic, if she wanted to go back to her body, the possibility of it is extremely high.

[.....I see. Ha~a, Kaori, you've always been a bit spontaneous since a long time ago but this time supases all of those]

After hearing Hajime's explanation, Shizuku placed a hand on her head to suppress her headache. Her headache was worse than the time when she was asked what Hajime's favorite game was so she visited the game store, only to have mistakenly charge into the X-rated game corner.

[Ehehe, sorry for worrying you Shizuku-chan]
[.....It's fine. As long as you're still alive then……]

Shizuku said while smiling at Kaori who had an apologetic expression, then she suddenly straightened her posture and changed her expression to a serious one, then turned towards Hajime and them and bowed her head.

[Nagumo-kun, Yue-san, Shia-san, Teio-san. Thank you very much for saving my best friend. Although my debts are continuously increasing and I have nothing I can return in exchange…..I'll never forget this favor throughout my life. If there's anything I can do, then feel free to ask. I'll do my best to respond to it]
[.....You're as honest as ever. Ma~a, don't mind it so much. We just helped out our own companion]

Shizuku showed a wry smile towards Hajime's light reply. It wasn't just Kaori, they were all saved as well. There lives were saved twice at that. Even after being saved from their predicaments, most likely the results of the clash was convenient for Hajime's own circumstances as well, his state of mind was already something that you could only laugh at how different it was.

And, somehow the calm mood also had a hint of spitefulness in it as well, Shizuku sharply pointed out.

[.....Considering all that, although you were also worried about me, you gave me the medicine for Kouki's sake right?]
[If you had broken then Kaori would have been troublesome….]
[Trou, troublesome you say…...that's mean, Hajime-san]

Replying to Shizuku's sarcastic remark, Kaori's tsukkomi also came through, [besides….], Hajime continued.

[Just like a certain Sensei has said, I should not walk down the "Lonely life". Though I can't afford to pay attention to everything, if it's just this much then……]
[! Nagumo-kun……]

Aiko who had kept silent while Shizuku and Hajime and them had their conversation, looked towards Hajime with moistened eyes that were overwhelmed by emotions due to Hajime's words.

The other students were strangely admiring that Ai-chan's teachings properly reached Hajime who had become overly haughty, it seems that Aiko was more impressed than they were though, Shizuku and Yue and them sensitively felt that some other kind of heat was also included in Aiko's eyes.

Kaori appearance was like, "It can't be!", asking for confirmation, she lined her sight with Shizuku and Yue and them, Yue and them nodded with a sharp look while Shizuku averted her eyes and looked up towards the sky.

Shizuku sensed that a delicate atmosphere was beginning to build up and decided to continue talking in order to return the atmosphere back to normal. There were a mountain of things that she still wanted to ask.

[On that day, the day when Sensei was kidnaped, can we hear what you wanted to tell us that day? That talk surely had some kind of relation with Nagumo-kun and them who acquired Age of Gods magic right?]

Hajime heard Shizuku's words and turned his gaze over to Aiko. Silent pressure hung over Aiko to explain the situation. while clearing out her throat, ~Kohon~, Aiko began to explain Hajime's purpose for traveling, and, she began to explain about everything from the events when she was held at the head temple and when the Kingdom was invaded.

After she finished explaining everything, the first person to raise their voice was Kouki.

[What's with that. Then, are you saying that we're just dancing on the palm of God's hand? Then why didn't you tell us about it sooner! You could have told us when we met up again at Orcus!]

With a criticising look and voice, however, Hajime only glanced at Kouki as if he was troublesome and didn't say anything. He was ignored. Towards that attitude, Kouki got up from his seat with a ~gata!~ noise and was filled with hostility towards Hajime.

[How about saying something! If you had told me about it sooner then!]
[Wait a bit, Kouki!]

Shizuku's urge wasn't heard, Hajime frowned annoyingly at Kouki who had lost his temper, after letting out a grand sigh, he looked towards Kouki as if he was bothersome.

[If I had said it, would you have believed me?]
[What was that?]
[At any rate, you're a person who loves to believe in your convenient interpretations. Would the large majority of people believe that God has "gone mad" when told so, I knew it would have been meaningless to tell you about it, far from believing in me, rather, you'd criticize me instead? That kind of scene comes to mind]
[Bu, but, if you had explained it clearly repeatedly then….]
[Are you stupid. Why do I have to go through bone breaking stakes for your guys sakes? Surely you're not expecting that just because I'm your classmate, that I'll naturally lend my power right? …...Saying such foolishness is just like…...a second Hiyama?]

Towards Hajime's glare which was like permanently frozen ground, all of the classmates averted their eyes.

But, It seemed that Kouki wasn't convinced and continued to stare severely at Hajime. Kouki didn't notice that Yue who was next to Hajime was looking at him with fed up eyes declaring, you've been saved twice so why are you still behaving like this.

[But, If we're to fight God together from now on…….]
[Wait, wait, Hero (Laughs). When did I say I was going to fight God? Don't just decide it on your own. Naturally I'll kill them if they come

from the other side but, I have no intentions of going around to search for them? Because I just want to go through all great labyrinths and quickly return home to Japan]

Kouki's eyes opened up widely when those words were said.

[Na~, surely you don't mean to say that whatever happens to the people of this world is alright are you!? If we don't do something about God, people will continue being his plaything from now and onwards! Are you going to abandon them!]
[I'm not willing to use my powers for the sake of someone who's face I don't even know…..]
[Why…..just why! Aren't you stronger than us! If you have that much power then you should be able to do anything! If you have power then shouldn't you use it for the right things!]

Kouki was howling. As always, his words were overflowing with justice. However, such "words" were against the person's will to begin with, they didn't reach Hajime. Hajime looked at Kouki as if he was a stone on the roadside.

[.....if "you have power" huh. That's exactly why you'll always be groveling on the ground. ….I believe that power should be used with clearly defined intentions. You don't do something because you have power. Because you want something you use power. If you're saying that just because "you have power" you have to do it regardless of your will then, that's probably nothing more than a "curse". that will is too feeble. …...Or rather, I have no intentions of arguing about which path you and I take. Anything more about this will be annoying so I'll seriously send you flying]

After Hajime said that, his eyes returned to normal as if he had no interest in Kouki and them.

From his attitude, Hajime was serious about himself and the world, Kouki realised that it wasn't out of a grudge nor hatred, he simply had

no interest. After the reason why he lost was said out, he kept quiet while shaking violently. I have a strong will!, he wanted to object, but, for some reason those words wouldn't come out.

The other classmates as well, somehow understood that Hajime coming back and teaming up with them again was nothing but a dream, and, they trembled violently when they thought that they might seriously end up like Hiyama if they said things poorly.

After all, even though they were just puppets, their opponent was someone who held no hesitation and turned all the knights including Meld into chunks of meat. As for the stay-behind group, they couldn't even look Hajime in the eye after he fell into hell.

[.....As expected, you won't be staying around? I wanted you to at least stay until the defense system for the Kingdom was repaired…..]

The person who requested it was Ririana.

As of now, confusion is still within the Kingdom, although the magic formation which allowed large-scale transfer was removed, they were still in a state where it was unknown when the Majinzoku would be attacking once again so Hajime and them were an existence which they didn't want to part with. Freed who seemed to be the other parties general only withdrew because Hajime was here. With just Hajime and them being here, they were already a kind of repellent.

[Since things were already established with God's Apostle, I want to hurry up ahead. Resurrecting Kaori took 5 days as well. I plan on leaving tomorrow]

Though Ririana's shoulders dropped, after Hajime and them had left, there was no way of stopping Freed and them so as a princess she needed to hold onto them.

[Is there anything…...at least, that pillar of light…...that's also one of Nagumo-san's artifacts right? Can you allow us to use it for the Kingdom's protection? …...I'll do everything I can to reward you for it, so]
[.....Ah, "Hyuberion" huh. It's impossible. That thing broke after the first blow….it was a prototype after all. If I don't improve it, then]

Hajime's annihilation weapon "Hyuberion" that erased the huge army of demons and Majinzoku was in short, a sunlight convergence laser. Before going down **[**Kamiyama**]** he flew up to retrieve it.

"Hyuberion" was an enormous airframe lens which converged sunlight, it can also charge itself while inside of the "Treasure Warehouse" which had heat capacity installed in it. Enormous heat which critically overflowed from the "Treasure Warehouse" would be discharged through the launching entrance where gravity magic was added in to make it discharge towards the ground.

And "Hyuberion's" biggest feature was the fact that it could still converge the sunlight even while it was night. It's secret was due to Oscar Orcus's false sun which lightened up his rooms. That thing's sunlight was created through Reproduction magic along with Space magic, it was through collaboration with the "liberators" who combined their Age of Gods magic as Hajime couldn't understand at first.

Even the Hajime as of now is still unable to create a fake sun. Plus "Hyuberion" was still in it's experimental stage as well, it wasn't able to withstand it's own heat and broke down, so it can no longer shoot anymore. To begin with, "Hyuberion" wasn't the only annihilation weapon that Hajime had created but…….

[Is that…..so…..]

After hearing Hajime's words, once again Ririana's shoulders drops down. There, Kaori, Shizuku, and Aiko pierced Hajime with glares. The 3 people already know of Hajime's stance. Although Hajime did say that

he'll consider people in his surroundings to some extent, fundamentally, the fact that he's indifferent about this world doesn't change. Reaching out towards the surroundings was so that sadness wouldn't indirectly reach Yue and them. That's why the 3 people didn't actually say anything. They don't but their persuasiveness were shown in their eyes.

Although Hajime had been ignoring them while drinking his tea, he let out a murmur because they were so persistent.

[.....Before we leave, I'll at least fix the Great Barrier]
[Nagumo-san! Thank you very much!]

Hajime ignored Ririana's, *not sure how i'm supposed to use this expression, パァ*Pa~a!, expression which was shining, and with a, is this alright then? he glanced towards Kaori and them. The three people as well as Ririana returned a joyful smile at Hajime.

Somehow or another it's become really sweat now, he thought, even Yue and Shia besides him were smiling at him, [Ma~a, this isn't bad I guess], Hajime let out a bitter smile as he shrugged his shoulders.

[And where are you guys planning on heading Nagumo-kun? If you're aiming for Age of God's magic then you'll be going for the great labyrinths right? If you came from the West then…...is it the Sea of Trees?]
[Ahh, that's our intent. I had plan to go via Fuyuren but, heading partly towards the south is bothersome so I think we'll just go as is towards the East]

After hearing what Hajime had planned, Ririana's expression was as if she had thought of something.

[Then, will you be passing through the Empire's territory?]
[It'll probably happen…..]
[If so then, would it be alright if I tagged along as well?]
[N? What for?]

[There are mountains of things to talk about with the Empire about the Kingdom being invaded. The messenger and ambassador have already left for the Empire but, it's best to talk about it at the earliest possible. With Nagumo-san's transportation artifact, getting to the Empire would be quick right? That's why, I was wondering if I could board as well and have a direct talk over there]

Hajime was amazed at Ririana's bold plan and how she worked her way up towards it, if he thought about it, she was the princess who in order to get help, ran away from the Kingdom and traveled through a caravan. Thinking of it he was strangely convinced that it was natural that she would naturally think up of such an idea.

And, since it wasn't much trouble to just lower her down as they went along their path, his mind consented that it was alright. However, he didn't forget to give a warning.

[Dropping you off is fine but, we won't be entering the Empire? We'll never accompany you to a meeting with the Emperor?]
[Fufu, don't say such impudent things. Just dropping me off is more than enough]

Ririana unintentionally let out a wry smile after Hajime's cautious remark, then Kouki who was silenced by Hajime began to talk again.

[If that's so then, We'll also tag along. Riri can't be left alone with someone who thinks nothing of this world. We'll be the guards along the way. Besides, if Nagumo doesn't plan on doing anything then, I'll save this world! For that purpose, power is needed! The power of Age of God's magic! If we tag along with you guys, we'll be able to obtain Age of God's magic right!]
[No, I'll tell you their locations so don't come without permission. If you tag along it'll always be troublesome all the time]

What are you suddenly getting so fired up about, Hajime had an amazed expression. I guess the criticism about not relying on others

wasn't understood. There, Aiko timidly points out Hajime's words from before.

[But, Nagumo-kun, you said that even if we challenged a great labyrinth now, we'd be killed]
[.....No, that was, that other thing. Look, even I who was "incapable" managed to do something about it, so you guys should be fine. You can do it, you can do it. In short you need fighting spirit]
[Isn't that impossible?]

Hajime irresponsibly turned his eyes away from Aiko who completely remembered his remark.

As for Hajime, the dawn when they surpassed the limits of the world was something that he didn't mind allow his classmates to get a free pass into. But, helping them obtain Age of God's magic from the first step was something he wanted absolutely nothing to do with. There was no other reason but the loss of time.

[Nagumo-kun, could I ask you a favor. Just once is fine. Even with just 1 Age of Gods magic, it'll make a decisive difference in completing the other great labyrinths. Won't you let us follow along this once?]
[If you plan on leaching then the magic won't be obtainable? Its required through actions to be accepted by the labyrinth]
[Of course. Putting aside God's case for now, we're also the same in wanting to return home. We'll desperately challenge it with determined will. That's why, I ask of you. Being saved several times and only being able to say our thanks of repaying your kindness to you, but right now, we can't do anything but rely on you. Please lend us your power once more]
[Suzu's also asking, Nagumo-kun. I want to become stronger and have a talk with Eri once again. So I ask of you! This favor will definitely be repaid if you take along suzu and us]

Up until now Aiko had listen to their unreasonable words, only Shizuku earnestly wanted help to obtain the Age of Gods magic. Her expression

was stiff and uneasy as she felt sorry that they had to rely on them while not being able to repay their kindness.

Suzu who had kept silent for a long time was also influenced by Shizuku and lowered her head. It appears that she had thought of various things about Eri. Her voice and expression carried desperation. Kouki's eyebrow jumped up a little in reaction to the spectacle he saw but, in the end he didn't say anything.
Hajime was hesitating. Normally, taking along Kouki and them to finish **[**Harutsuina Sea of Trees**]** was troublesome and unthinkable. He wanted to quickly refuse them and tell them to go to whichever they wanted out of **[**Orcus Great Labyrinth**]** or **[**Raisen Great Labyrinth**]**.

However, this time, after his battle with Nointo his judgement was hesitating.

That was because, he thought of how to eliminate Nointo as well as the influential men who were seen manipulated back in the past at the **[**Merujine Underwater Ruins**]** who will likely be a nuisance, she was a doll who was the embodiment of God's will and literally the hands and feet of God that moved around secretly behind the scenes.

Then, if "God's Apostle(Nointo)" was clearly created, sure enough, can we be certain that there's not more than one. It may be overly optimistic in thinking so.

Nointo had said. Hajime was an Irregular and God's wish was to have him die while suffering. If so then, sure enough it's logical to believe that they'll send in more existences like Nointo. Assuming so, for the sake of that time, it may be a good idea to give Kouki and them some power? Hajime thought.

Although it was quite evil to throw others at the enemies which were after him, [Ma~a, the Hero has his mind set on fighting God so there shouldn't be any problems right?], he thought lightly, in the end, he finally decided to accept their company and moved towards

[Harutsuina Sea of Trees**]**. For the time being, he glanced at Yue and them for confirmation and it didn't appear that they had any particular objections.

Shizuku and them had a smile of relief which leaked out, Hajime was thinking about the 2 remaining great labyrinths that would come in the future.

Regardless of what's there, the ending of these travels were coming into view. No matter the existence which blocked their path, no matter the situation that they fall in, he'll beat them by all means and return home. Along with the "Importance" that he obtained in this world.

That oath renewed his desire and included his new bonds which piled up and became even stronger. While feeling the flame of determination growing bigger within his heart, Hajime quietly smiled.

Chapter 108: Chatting Events of a Single Day -First-

The Kingdom was unusually noisy as crowds of people were talking and chattering.

Usually you'd express it as "everyone is lively" but, if you looked at the facial expressions of the people in the Kingdom, you'd notice that the majority of those people had sorrowful and dark expressions. The invasion of the Kingdom was truly an unexpected event.

It's been 5 days since that day, the sense of loss and sorrow still lingering in the people's chests were bringing pain to their hearts. However, that still doesn't stop them from working on the reconstruction, that was surely "The strength of people".

On the main street of the Kingdom which was filled with sorrow and strength, a man with white hair and an eyepatch was buying something hotdog-like (because something that wasn't a sausage was inserted instead) and chewing on it as he walked towards the guild

headquarters, it was Hajime. Only Yue and Shizuku was by his side. After going to the guild headquarters they were going to repair the great barriers, Shizuku volunteered to guide them to the artifact's location.

Shia and them were house sitting at the Royal Palace. It was judged that it would be better to not needlessly stimulate the people with the appearances of another race walking through the Kingdom, so they volunteered to stay behind. Even if the Kingdom citizens know that the ones that attacked them were Majinzoku's, right now they'll likely indiscriminately target them because they "aren't humans".

The Kingdom were high believers of the church, to begin with, besides the Demi-human slaves, there were hardly any other race but humans. That's the judgement was proper. Right now if you're just judging by appearances then Kaori counted as human so she was currently helping Aiko and them who were busy helping Ririana, and Teio was sleeping in order to refill the magical power she's used up continuously for the past several days.

[The guild headquarters is…...in the end, what do you plan on doing there?]

Shizuku asked Hajime as she was also similarly chewing on a cheese flavored hotdog.

[N? Ahh, I thought I'd just send a message reporting that the request was completed. Although it's something that should be done directly with words, it'll be far too troublesome to travel from Fuyuren towards the Sea of Trees. If I send a report through headquarters they'll properly deal with it]
[.....By report…..are you talking about that child called Myu? Come to think of it, I don't see her appearance……]

After Shizuku was slightly disappointed and lowered her eyebrows, they explained that Myu was safely reunited with her mother. Was she done in by Myu's cuteness after only meeting momentarily? [I wanted to

hug her…….] Shizuku muttered. However, after hearing Yue's words, her eyes opened up widely.

[.....It's fine. You'll meet again. Since Hajime will be taking her with us to Japan]
[.....Hai? What does this mean Nagumo-kun?]
[What do you mean what does this mean, it's exactly as said. I've made a promise with Myu. I said I'd take her with me to my hometown]
[Eh...no...but…..Myu-chan is a Umininzoku*Sea person* right?]

Hajime shrugged his shoulders like there was nothing wrong while Shizuku was baffled.

[I understand what you're saying, but its not that much of a problem? There are lots of ways around it, and if there's none then just make one. Isn't it often said? something like, Whether or not it's possible, or whether you can do it or not]
[That's, ma~a, that's certainly true but….]
[To begin with, isn't it too late now? Shia's got usamimi's…..and Yue's not even albino but she has sharp canines and bright red eyes. If you look in the long-term, her appearance won't change either…..You probably didn't even think about it when I said that I was going to bring both of them back to Japan]

As Hajime made his points, Shizuku certainly had a wry smile now. Yue who was besides him had a faint smile on her face. She was quietly holding onto the hem of Hajime's clothes with her hand. Faintly, a sweet atmosphere began to drift. When Shizuku was hit by the atmosphere, her temperature went up a bit, [Thanks for the meal], she said while fanning herself.

And while glancing over to the side at the two harmonious people, Shizuku was convinced that whatever happens Hajime will somehow find a way through it all even though she had no evidence, when she thought about the steep path which her best friend was traveling on, Shizuku began to become troubled and her eyebrows became an ハ.

[.....Are you properly looking after Kaori?]
[N~? That's something you should ask the actual person herself. No matter what I say, I don't actually know how she feels? Ma~a, for me, just as promised, I don't intend to be cruel]

Shizuku suddenly became more worried after hearing those words. If you looked at Kaori's appearance then, somehow or another she understood what the answer was without hearing it, [You overprotective guy], she said as she looked towards Hajime.

Shizuku was feeling somewhat shameful and as Hajime showed signs of being amazed at the remarks, Yue suddenly dropped a bombshell.

[.....Because he's like that he was assaulted. Hajime, hang in there]
[O, oh]
[Eh? Please wait a moment. Was assaulted? Who did to who?]
[.....Kaori did to Hajime. It seems that during the confusion she stole a kiss…..darn that Kaori]
[Ka, Kaori did…..no way….right, Kaori's already gone up the stairs towards adulthood….]

Before she knew it, her best friend had powered up in various meanings, Shizuku had distant eyes and her cheeks cramped up. As if she was left behind she began to feel lonely.

[.....Aiko is also dangerous. Be careful Hajime]
[.....There's no way that's true]

Hajime quickly averted his eyes away from Yue's sharp glance, he was one beat too slow in denying that possibility. Shizuku who regained herself as the 2 people talked, that's right! with a sharp glance just like Yue, she thoroughly questioned Hajime.

[Somehow, you're talking as if you've realised it? And? Nagumo-kun, what have you done to Ai-chan?]

[Oi, kora. Why are you already assuming that I've done something]
[Ever since the day that Ai-chan came back to the Kingdom she's been acting funny. …...Whenever she spoke of you she blushed. …….I highly doubt that it was because you repelled that large army. Something definitely happened while still at the town of Ulu? Sa~a, truthfully spill it out! It's an important matter of whether or not Kaori's rivals will be increasing!]
[No, like I said, I…..]

Shizuku who had heated-up, [do~u, do~u], and trying to suppress it, she began to try and get idea's out of Hajime. Then there, Yue while expressionless, exposed it all.

[.....They kissed. Dense guy]
[! Nagumo-kun! People like you! The other party is a Sensei!]
[Wait, calm down. I'll explain it so, don't grab my neck, don't shake me!]

With a, This high-grade flag architect!, expression, Shizuku began to shake Hajime, and then Hajime's story of the lifesaving act that was performed at Ulu was told. Due to the poison, Aiko couldn't drink the medicine on her own, because the situation called for urgency, he forcefully made her drink it.

Since then it further increased when Shimizu was shot and she was rescued from the isolation tower at the head temple, with Yue adding onto it, Shizuku became convinced. Ahh, don't….fall Ai-chan.

[Ma~a, I understand that it wasn't completely intended to happen but…..Nagumo-kun, you look as if you've somehow figured out Ai-chan's feelings. Since when have you found out?]
[.....Since the time when I was taking care of Sensei after she blew up the head temple and killed Ishtar and his group. …….Because she was looking at me with strangely feverish eyes, It couldn't be though~ is what I had thought but…..As expected, it was like that?]
[.....It's like that]
[It's like that right]

Towards Shizuku and Yue's confirmation without hesitation, the emergency which was pushed into the corner of his mind came up again as Hajime looked up towards the sky. What are you going to do? is what the glances from both sides said to him, Hajime started thinking of ideas as he groaned out, [U~n].....

[Un, let's neglect it]

is what he concluded with.

[.....Ma~a, I don't think Aiko-chan will be taking on the offensive. Rather than dealing with it poorly, just leaving it as is might be better…..]
[Ah? ….....Ahh, it's just like you said. That person's a teacher so she has her commitments to keep. Since I'm a student, pretending that I haven't noticed it is the best course of action]

Actually, it was simply too troublesome to deal with, so as Hajime said out the plausible reasons he was averting his eyes somewhat and that fact was seen through by Shizuku who was staring at Hajime.

Shizuku's glance showed that she was through with the topic and ate all that was left of the hotdog, then Hajime and them finally reached the adventurers guild headquarters in the Kingdom. The building had a feeling like it wasn't inferior in history or scale when compared with Fuyuren's branch. When the entrance opened up, there were a lot of adventurers going in and out busily. The amount of requests in the Kingdom likely shot up after the invasion after all.

Hajime and them entered the guild and walked towards the ten rows of large counters. Though it was jammed packed with adventurers, as expected, the receptionists of the headquarters showed splendid skills in their procedures and the lines continued progressing at a fierce rate. In addition, the receptionists were all beautiful women. Right, they were incredible beauties. There was also a cute child as well. An incredibly

cute child. *I assume by child they're talking about a woman and not a kid, however in text it was child so i'll leave it as such*

However, Hajime was not one to fall for such honeytraps. After all, Hajime's lover was someone who wouldn't lose out in cuteness nor beauty, she was the perfect beautiful woman. Even now, she was the happy and cute woman holding onto Hajime's hand. There was no chance that he'd ever be fascinated by other women.

That's why, Hajime was thinking that he'd want to be given a break from the traps while breaking through happily and gayly. Because he really won't be fascinated by any other woman other than Yue after all.

After having enough of Shizuku's amazed expression while beside them, Hajime finally reached the receptionist. As he took out his status plate he also took out to submit the documents proving that Myu was safely returned to Erisen.

[Though I've come to report a completed request, is it possible for the head the Iruwa branch to report it to the Fuyuren branch from headquarters?]
[Hai? ….A nominated quest…...right? I'm sorry, please wait for a moment……]

The receptionist tilted her neck a little in puzzlement from Hajime's words. It was a proper reaction because a nominated quest from a head of a branch would never be given out to just any adventurer. Currently, the adventurers who were doing their procedures next to Hajime were looking at him in surprise.

When the receptionist received Hajime's status plate and looked at the contents, her clarified expression was destroyed and became just like the adventurers who were surprised. And after comparing the status plate and Hajime's face numerous times, she stood up in a panic.

[Are you without a doubt, Na, Nagumo Hajime-sama?]

[? Ahh, it's exactly as written on the status plate]
[I'm deeply sorry but, would you please come into the reception room? On the occasion that Nagumo-sama visited the guild, we've been informed to bring him inside…...I'll immediately call the guild master]
[Ha? No, I just want to request that the completed report gets sent to the head of the Iruwa branch. Besides, I've got plans to go and repair the great barrier after this. Please pardon me from the trouble]
[Eh, eh~, that'll put me in a troubling position…..I'll immediately, immediately, call the guild master to come so, please wait for a moment!]

With that the receptionist disappeared into the interior while leaving behind all of Hajime's paperwork and status plate with a speed which seemed that it could generate enough force to make a ~Pew~ sound. Hajime became disappointed. Yue and Shizuku patted Hajime's shoulder as if saying, ma~a, ma~a.

Although Hajime was told to wait for a while, he wondered if this was more troublesome and if he should just report directly to the Iruwa branch? as he thought this, an old man with a beard appeared with the receptionist from a while ago. When Hajime saw the old man he was convinced. He was absolutely the kind of old man who while tossing away his clothes to show his muscles, turn into a macho-oldman while raising out a shout, [Fun'nu~ua!].

That old man with the weird atmosphere was definitely the guild master and from the moment he appeared the guild suddenly rapidly became noisier. When the guild master called out to Hajime, the commotion spread out to the entire guild.

It appears that the guild master's name was Barusu Raputa. It was a name which somehow sounded like it'll being a person into ruins. Somehow it wasn't as bothersome as Hajime had first expected, his glance seemed to indicate that he wanted to talk with Hajime about the report to Iruwa.

No matter which town he travels to and whatever incidents occurred, he had a feeling in his chest that everything would turn out alright but, that was expecting too much.

[Barusu-dono, won't you introduce them to me? If it's someone who's being eyed by the guild master then, by all means, I'd like to become an acquaintance? Especially because as a gentlemen, it would not do to not greet those lovely women?]

The person who said such affectionate lines while coming closer besides Hajime and them was a bond pretty boy. 4 beautiful women were following behind him. When the surrounding adventurers saw him they began to whisper between themselves. The reason was because he was a "Gold" rank adventurer named Abel. It seems that his second name was "Flash Blade".

With that, Barusu announced that Hajime and Abel were both "Gold" rankers. The surrounding noise became incredible in an instant which caused Hajime to have a purely troublesome expression. Hajime was about to take Yue and Shizuku and immediately leave the guild but, Abel definitely had an interest in Shizuku and Yue so he had no intentions of allowing them to leave so easily.

Or rather, does no one notice that Shizuku was in the Hero's party? Hajime thought with a questionable face. While disregarding Hajime's current state, Able called out to Hajime with a refreshed face and laughingly.

[Fu~n, you're "Gold" huh~. You seem quite young though…...just what kind of hand did you play? There's no way it was a proper method right? Ahh, since it wasn't a proper method you can't say it out here huh…...sorry for not being considerate enough?]

*It's imagery, he's human lol*Abel was spitting out poison while smiling. At this point, Hajime had completely discarded the thought of fighting with Abel. It was because he judged that he wasn't worthy

enough to be an opponent. Yue and Shizuku also realised what Hajime was thinking and also tried to quickly leave the guild.

[Ma~a, wait a bit. Just because I'm a real "Gold" doesn't mean you have to run away. It's not like I'll eat you? Ma~a, since you might not be able to stay around, leaving is fine but, how about I go out for a meal with those girls? I'll show them what a real "Gold" is?]

So Abel says as he blocks them off. His eyes were convinced that if he invited the women they would absolutely not refuse. However, considering what Abels words sounded like in front of the 3 cheats…...it sounded absolutely ludicrous. Since Barusu knew of Hajime and their true identities, his face was trembling and shaking.

[Oi, Yaegashi. Taking care of these unfortunate pretty boys is what you're in charge of right? I'll leave it to you, the specialist, this is just like a degraded version of Amanogawa]
[Who's the specialist of what. To begin with, what are you saying about another person's childhood friend. Kouki isn't …….this disappointing? …..Maybe, surely…..he's not that pitiful and regrettable]
[.....Shizuku, you say some unexpected things sometimes. But I intensely agree]

The 3 people were having an extremely natural conversation while being through with Abel. He's probably never received bad treatment ever since he obtained "Gold". The other women were also glaring scowly at Yue and them.

As expected it was becoming a riot so Hajime was thinking about starting a countdown before blowing away all members that were laughing, including the guild master…...while Hajime was having such dangerous thoughts, an unexpectedly deep voice spoke out like a young girl called out to Hajime and them.

[Ara~a~n, Isn't it Hajime-san and Yue-oneesama over there?]

Hajime felt chills from the mysterious voice and immediately took a defensive stance with Donner pulled out. And the one who appeared when Hajime and them turned around was……

[Wh, what is this monster!?]
[Who~is, who could ever confuse San-chi's face for a monster!?] *This line is definitely wrong it was a mess, SAN 値直葬間違いなしの名状し難い直視するのも忌避すべき化け物ですってぇ*

Abel shouted out instinctively towards the mass of muscle with wide open eyes! It had thick muscle armor throughout its entire body and face just like what you'd see in comics and was around 2 meters in height. Yet it had it's red hair tied up to make twintails with a cute ribbon and what they were wearing was a so-called Yukata dress. There were lots of frills attached onto it. They were fluttering around a lot. The thick legs were wonderfully exposed.

For a moment, Hajime had thought that it was the monster, Christabel, from Brook town but, it appears to have been a different person. Unless that guy had a shape shifting ability…..

[Hi~i, st, stay away! Who do you think I am! I'm the "Gold" ranked "Flash Blade" Abel! If you come any closer than this, I'll cut you down here!]
[Ma~a, that's terrible! To be called a monster on our first meeting and killed….you're the same "Gold" as manager but you're treating me quite differently~*<- you'll understand later*. But…..you're face is to my preference♡]

Hajime and them stiffened up from being called out by the man-woman and reminded of Christabel, meanwhile Abel had somehow been cornered. No, he? She? was just there but, San-chi was seen as an enemy and about to be cut down by Abel.

The man looked towards Abel with an amazed expression as he screamed out instinctively? She? If so then, she seems to prefer Abel's

looks and impatiently approached. With her eyes shining like a beast and while licking her lips.

[I said don't come over here! You monster!]

Abel who was unable to withstand the fear finally pulled out his sword. It was a "Gold" ranked adventurer's attack. Everyone had thought that it would take the life of the man-woman but, the reality was well beyond their expectations.

The man-woman who cut the distance in an instant towards Abel while leaving an afterimage held onto Abel's sword with one hand and grabbed him as is. In other words, it was a bearhug.

Abel's body could be heard creaking out and was desperately trying to escape. However, because the restraint was formed by muscles, he wasn't able to escape, while he was struggling desperately, Abel's tragic time had begun.

[Nufufu, I'll thoroughly punish the bad child♡]
[Stop it! Don--mmu~guu!?]

Abel began to break out into convulsions, after a while, the sound of a sword clanging onto the ground was heard. That sight was almost like a flower's bud being cut off.

The women who were serving Abel all turned pale faced in an instant and ran out of the guild at full speed. Afterwards, the guild as wrapped in silence, Abel was finally released and fell to the ground as if broken. No matter how you looked at it, the victim was the ruffian.

However, what was there was definitely a "Gold" ranked adventurer. He still retained some consciousness as he glared at the man-woman. ……But, he immediately looked away from the man-woman and glanced over towards Hajime.

[O, oi, you! You're the same "Gold" right! Then help me! Besides, although you may have obtained it through unjust means, I'll put in a good word for you! You're role is to help me, the "Flash Blade"! It'll be an Honor! Look, quickly do something about this monster! You slowpoke!]

Although Hajime didn't understand why he was asking for help while verbally abusing him but, his glance was past amazement and turned into pity and regret for Abel. Incidentally, if this really is "Gold", then this world's adventurers are doomed? Barusu thought. Barusu shook his neck as if he was denying something. There may have been various problems with Abel being "Gold".

And while Abel was unleashing out all kinds of unbearable insults, the one who came forwards was not the man-woman, but Yue. There, Abel got the wrong idea.

[Ahh, you're willing to help me? Then, tonight I'll make time just for yo-……]
[.....Don't open your mouth]

Hajime and Shizuku understood that Yue's voice carried anger in it. It seems she's a bit ticked off that he was verbally abusing Hajime. While interrupting Abel's words, a black swirling orb appeared in Yue's right palm.

[.....Be born once again then come back "Beep" rascal]
[Eh~? Wai-!? Stop, ah, ah, aaah---------!!!]

On this day, another person from this world, a man has perished and the gave out their first cries as a man-woman.

With a satisfied expression, Yue who crushed the symbol of a man, returned to Hajime's side. If you looked at the surroundings, all male adventurers covered their crotches with both hands while slouching

over and trembling. Someone within them had tears in their eyes as well. It appears that just seeing it was enough to damage them.

Then, at that time, whispers began to be heard in the guild that was wrapped in silence.

[O, oi, a blond girl with red eyes and a white haired boy with an eyepatch…..]
[Eh? It, it can't be, the "Crotch Smasher"!]
[Seriously…..then those two are "Sma-love"…..]*<- original text, Or Smash Lovers, whichever floats ur boat*
[Eh? What's that, those two horrifying names]
[You don't know? They're the adventurers who appeared like a comet several months ago. "A blond girl with red eyes like a rose. Don't be misled by those good looks, if you get pulled in what awaits you is a new world. She has the appearance of a goddess but she's also the son killing demon king""By her side is the white haired boy with an eyepatch. The incarnation of unreasonableness. Words never get through to him. Do not make eye contact. Do not speak out to him. Do not get into his sights. If you still want to live that is", that's what the minstrel who came from Brook said. In fact, even in Fuyuren and Hourado, theres been quite a lot of men's whose son were murdered to the state of being unable to recover by an unknown group?]*Son here meaning genitals*
[What's with that, how scary]

It appears that Hajime and Yue's name circulated even to the Kingdom due to minstrels. The surrounding adventurers looked at Hajime and them in terror while shivering, if we make eye contact, we'll get done in! they thought as they gradually distanced themselves while covering their crotch.

[You guys…..what exactly were you guys doing]

Shizuku looked at Hajime and Yue with an amazed glance. Yue looked indifferent but, Hajime's cheeks were cramping up grandly as the

rumors of the 2 names spread. Then, the man-woman from a while ago called out to them.

[It's been a while? I'm happy that you two haven't changed, wan] *<- a dog's barking noise*
[.....No, who are you. Are you Christabel's acquaintance?]

Hajime asked while being openly on guard towards the man-woman who winked at them. He had a slight trauma of the time when he was attacked by Christabel while leaving Brook Town. Once again, Shizuku who also witnessed the strange scene, thought, where did the usual everyday social conversations go, her cheeks were unintentionally cramping up, as she casually withdrew behind Hajime to make him a shield.

[Ara, how thoughtless of me…..you wouldn't know from my appearance nen? I once confessed to Yue-oneesama and I literally suffered an honorable death as a man but…...have you remembered?]
[.....Ah. Really?]

It appears that Yue had an idea as she looked up at the man-woman with a shocked expression. The man-woman laughed happily as Yue managed to remember.

According to his self introduction, he confessed to Yue at Brook Town but was immediately shot down, the people who she mainly performed a crotch smash on were mainly adventurers, and as a man-woman he/she studied under Christabel. By the way, it seems that his/her name was Mariabel (Named by Christabel).

[At that time, I was truly foolish, wan. I'm sorry ne? Yue-oneesama….]
[.....N, you've become splendid. A new life should be enjoyed]
[Ufufu, I thought that Oneesama would say that, wan. Speaking of which, recently, there have been more and more boys hoping to become Christabel's apprentices. If I remember right, it was a former "Black" rank adventurer and some former mercenaries based in the hidden

organization in Horuado…...with that, the manager has to expand her shop nen. Today is the preliminary inspection]

Hajime's spine began to tingle and his expression distorted and trembled in fear. It appears that because of Hajime and them, there were large quantities of man-woman in this world and they were multiplying.

However, Hajime hadn't noticed that Mariabel was originally an average height and built man. The rapid growth within these few months was…...due to Christabel's training methods, by itself, it seems to be at a monstrous level.

Furthermore, from what Mariabel spilled out a while ago, Christabel was originally a "Gold" rank adventurer. Naturally her disciples would become extremely competent in combat. It was clear from the fight that Mariabel had with Abel a while ago.

A huge unparalleled army of man-woman…..it's a nightmare.

As Hajime watched Yue and Mariabel exchange conversations in a friendly manner, he renewed his determination to escape from this world as soon as possible.

Shizuku said with an amazed voice, [You reap what you sow….], as she stood behind him. Somehow or another, Hajime who was angry, pushed Shizuku off onto Mariabel.

After this, the pleased Mariabel gave Shizuku a grand hug to the point of causing her face to turn pale, after she was separated from Mariabel, she went and quarreled grandly with Hajime, at that time, the rumor ridiculing Shizuku's relationship started spreading but…...it'll be omitted here.

Chapter 109: Chating Events of a Single Day -Second-

At the adventurers guild Hajime had learned of a separate kind of world threat, however, he tried to ignore it as much as possible as he went to repair the great barrier.

The place where Shizuku guided them to was being guarded by a considerable amount of soldiers, the guards turned a dangerous look towards Hajime as he approached. However, they're eyes softened up immediately when they noticed that Shizuku was by his side.

Thanks to Shizuku's face pass, they were easily allowed in and found a space which was made out of white marble-like stone, at the center was a magic formation with a cylindrical artifact enshrined on top of it. The artifact would normally be around 2 meters in length but, right now it was broken from the middle and it's remains were scattered around.

Around it's surrounding was a few men worrying till wits end as they groaned, [un,un]. They were most likely the craftsmen who were trying to repair the great barrier.

[Oya? If it isn't Shizuku-dono. ……What brings you here?]

A man who was around his 60s with a fully grown mustache and carried an obvious craftsman aura called out to Shizuku as soon as he noticed. It appears to have been one of Shizuku's acquaintances.

[Hello, Worupen-san. I'm just a guide. I've brought along a Synergist who may be able to repair the great barrier]
[What was that? Is it by chance that boy there?]

The man who Shizuku called Worupen turned his glance over to Hajime and was clearly suspicious but did not voice it to Shizuku.

Truthfully, Worupen was under the Hairhi Kingdom's direct control as the head synergist. The great barrier artifact was naturally an Age of Gods artifact, in the present age, attempting to repair it was extremely difficult even for the head synergist of the royal palace. So even if he was

suddenly told that a boy who wasn't even 20 yet was able to fix it, it would be natural that he wouldn't be able to believe it so easily.

However, Hajime wasn't concerned with those kinds of glances and passed between Worupen and the other craftsmen towards the artifact and place his hand onto the ruins. What he activated was "Mineral Appraisal".

[He~e, I see…..it should be strong if it's like this]
[Fu~n, you're just a kid so what could you possibly know about it]

As Hajime nodded as he understood how the great barrier was able to protect the Kingdom for hundreds of years from foreign enemies, Worupen grunted out from his nose in a bad mood.

However, Hajime was indifferent towards Worupen's attitude and proceeded to begin "Transmuting". Red sparks began to spread out around Hajime and one after another he began to fuse the wreckage with one hand back into their original places.

Towards that transmuting speed and accuracy, not only Worupen but also his subordinates weren't able to peel their eyes away. Shizuku who was also seeing Hajime's all-out "Transmuting" for the first time, seemed to also have been fascinated by the red sparks which was dancing around in the white space as she mutters, [How beautiful…..].

Hajime who finished repairing the Age of Gods artifact in only a matter of several tens of seconds suddenly began pouring in magical power into it to activate the great barrier.

The cylindrical artifact shot out light from its top which climbed up towards the sky. Immediately afterwards, a soldier who was guarding outside rushed into the room and reported that the 3rd barrier had revived.

[.....How could this be…...an artifact from the Age of Gods was so easily……]

Shizuku told the stunned Worupen with a wry smile that Hajime came from the same world as she did. [No wonder….] Worupen and them said with a convinced face.

Incidentally, when she told them that the black katana which fired them all up before was made by Hajime, they're eyes suddenly sparkled and shined like beasts. Hajime disregarded them and continued to quickly walk towards the next artifacts location.

However, Worupen and them with their massive craftsmen spirits, knew that they couldn't just easily let go of a synergists who was above them.

[Please wait a moment-----!! An apprentice! By all means, please take us in as your apprentices----!!]
[Uo! Wha, what's with you guys suddenly. Or rather, don't cling onto my feet! You're creeping me out!]

Worupen was appealing to become Hajime's apprentice as he clung onto his feet. In addition, Worupen's subordinates begin to one by one cling onto Hajime in order to not let him escape. While genuinely being disgusted from the bottom of his heart that he was in such close contact with such hairy men, Hajime tried to shake them off of his leg but they had firmly gripped on so it was hard to get them off.

Since there was no helping it, he activated "Thunder Clad" which caused everyone to go, [Abababababa], and he broke free. Even still, the craftsmen crawled and reached out with their hands, as expected even Hajime couldn't ignore them and said out a clear reason to decline them.

[Look here, I'll be immediately leaving this place and I have no plans to return to the Kingdom either. Having apprentices is also very

troublesome as well, first of all, even if you became my apprentices I wouldn't have anything to teach you guys]
[But, you easily repaired the artifact and even made Shizuku-dono's black katana as well. We have absolutely no idea how to create something like that at all. If you're willing to teach us then……]
[No, it wasn't just "Transmuting Magic" it was also "Creation Magic", a magic which you guys aren't capable of is required]
[That can't be…..]

Worupen and them exhaustively dropped their shoulders towards Hajime's words. Truthfully, the great barrier artifact was also created with Space magic through Creation magic, the barrier of the Kingdom was a special type which intercepted space.

A normal synergist wouldn't be able to repair it. Of course, since space magic was ingrained into the ores, if you steadily repaired it, it's likely that you'd be able to repair it to some degree but not until perfection.

Disregarding Worupen and them who hung their heads, when Hajime tried to once again go towards the location of the other artifact, Worupen and their eyes sharpened up again.

[Still, it doesn't change the fact that you have excellent transmuting skills! By all means, take us in as apprentices~!!]
[How persistent!]

Such fearsome craftsmen spirit. It wouldn't be good if he didn't compromise. In the end, while Hajime was repairing all of the artifacts, Worupen and them who were supposed to be the Kingdom's synergists were sticking onto him and crying like babies.

Furthermore was it because they heard of the rumors? Those who gathered weren't just the synergists at the scene, eventually Hajime was being crowded as they tried to learn his techniques. Hajime who was close to wits end was beginning to fling the craftsmen far away into the

distance but, they got up like zombies as they tried to learn of the secrets to his “Transmuting” and crowded around him once again.

As expected of the craftsmen’s and their desires to reconstruct the Kingdom, Hajime was planning to escape but…..it appears that they were communicating through the craftsmens network in the Kingdom, wherever he went they appeared! and asked limitless questions. It appears that until they learn of everything, they have no plans to stop clinging or leaving, as expected even Hajime was shrinking back from it.

While being bombarded with questions, Hajime finally planned to seriously escape and created the game of tag that all craftsmen in the Kingdom participated in.

[Damn, what’s happening here. Even though I’m using “Hide Presence”]
[Hahaha~, those kinds of things are useless against our “Craftsmen intuition”]
[We can clearly feel you! Nagumo-dono’s passionate pathosssssss!!]*<- basically his feelings*
[Ha~a, Ha~a, the presence of techniques! We can hear the gasping voice of the amazing techniquesssss!!]

The craftsmen? were equipped with a different kind of institution which surpassed Hajime’s. While having a cramped cheek of not wanting to be touched, he seriously thought over if he should pull out Donner and schlag or not.

In the end, the escaping and pursuing drama caused great confusion because the craftsmen’s had disappeared from their reconstruction sites, when it finally reached Ririana’s ears, the royal family intervened and restored control in the situation.

~~~~~~
~~~~~~

[Yaegashi…...couldn't you have helped me out? You were acquainted with them right?]

Hajime had returned to the royal palace as if tired out from something, once he returned he treated himself to tea while staring and complaining at Shizuku.

Yue was also next to Shizuku, when Hajime came back, she quickly prepared the tea. It was exactly something a lover would do. Having to look at the army of craftsmen who were approaching with bloodshot eyes and panting out, [Ha~a, Ha~a], they returned back to the royal palace first while averting their eyes from Hajime's, she was a wonderful lover.

[Don't say such ridiculous things. …….The case with the black katana was already an uproar but, that's exactly why I knew that it was impossible to stop them who had flames within them……]
[Hajime, thanks for the good work]

Shizuku made an excuse while looking away and Yue drank tea while patting Hajime on the head. When Hajime hugged Yue tightly, as is, he carried her like a princess and sat down on the opposite seat of Shizuku.
[.....What is it I wonder, these smoldering irritated feelings. Even though Yue took the same actions as me…..]
[Ha? There's no reason Yue and Yaegashi are on the same level is there? If you're the other party then I'll get angry, if it's Yue then its no problem]
[Un, Yue is your lover after all, I get what you're saying but…..right now I want to hit you so badly]

Towards the obvious difference in treatment, even though she understood that she'd naturally get done in, a blue vein appeared as she became angry. It was the same concept of becoming angry at lovers who were flirting in front of her even if she knew they were lovers.

Yue who was on his knee, began to say, [A~n], to Hajime with the snacks that came along with the tea, [I'm in your way huh? I'm a bothersome insect huh?], with twitching cheeks Shizuku was thinking about escaping to where Kaori was but, suddenly, the door to their room was flung opened with a ~Ban!~ sound without being knocked on.

What is it? what was reflected in Hajime and their sights was a 10 year-old blond haired blue eyed pretty boy and he glared at Hajime while ~Ki'ing!~. Moreover, did he not like that Yue was sitting on Hajime's lap? After seeing Yue for a moment his eyes became further enraged which seemed to contain 2 times the anger from before.

[Was it you! The scum who adjusted Kaori! M, moreover, even though there's Kaori, those, those kinds of things….I won't forgive it, I'll definitely never forgive you!]

The person appearing and saying such things was the prince of this country, Randell S.B. Hairhi. Randell clenched his fist and ran towards Hajime while letting out a courageous shout, [U~oooooo!]. His mind was filled with giving Hajime a beating.

Although Hajime didn't understand what was going on, for the time being he decided to pick up a sugar cube that was prepared for tea on the table and flicked it in opposition. The sugar cube which flew out at impossible speeds, accurately hit Randell in the forehead, [Higu~u!], he let out a strange scream as his head was flung back onto the floor.

The pain of his forehead and the back of his head caused him to roll around with his hands covering his head. After writhing in pain for a while, he got back up and ~Ki!'ed~ at Hajime as he glared and rushed in again.

Therefore, Hajime let loose the second shot. ~Bachikon!~ sounded out as Randell's head was flung backwards. The sugar cube was crushed and scattered into the air as if dancing and Randell was forcefully

performing a backflip due to the sheer power and fell onto the ground once again.

[Your, your highness~! You~, how dare you do that to his highness~!]
[We'll beat and cut you!]
[Protect his highness!]

From the door that Randell flung open, some old men who were guard-like came running in and charged at Hajime.

Bachikon! Bachikon! Bachikon!

Of course in one rotation, the sugar cubes were accurately fired into all members foreheads, in another sense they were all artistically kneeling together.

However, Randell and the old men were quite tenacious, they glared at Hajime as they tried to stand back up. While thinking that they had some nice guts, Hajime grabbed the whole bottle filled with cubes and fired them all after taking them out.

Chuchuchuchuchuchuchuin!

An impossible sound ranged out and sugar cubes were flicked out like a machine gun from Hajime's hand, Randell and them were writhing on the ground like a bad marionette performance.

Although damage was kept to a minimum because they were just sugar cubes, it doesn't change the fact that it still hurt. Shizuku who became absentminded with her jaw dropped down, finally regained her composure and restrained Hajime, the room had already been filled with sobs of sorrow.

After Hajime stopped firing sugar cubes because he ran out, he stared at Randell who had his legs arranged as if he was a woman who was assaulted by a thug and had his face buried into the floor while crying in

sorrow. It appears that his heart broke after taking on Hajime's relentless attacks.

The surrounding old men rushed up towards him and were saying, [Your highness~! The wounds are shallow!], in order to comfort him.

Then, Ririana appeared at that timing.

Shizuku was scolding Hajime that he went overboard, Yue who was on top of Hajime's lap was calmly eating and chewing on the teacakes, Hajime who was receiving a warning from Shizuku was indifferently drinking his tea, and Randell who broke down into tears and the old men who were trying to cheer him up as he cried.

When Ririana saw them she understood the situation and covered her eyes with one hand as she looked up towards the sky.

[It appears that I was too late…..]
[*Princess*Hime-san huh? I don't know what it's about, but your blood brother seems to be emotionally unstable? Won't you quickly reclaim him?]

Ririana's eyes seemed to want to say, [It's probably your fault right!], but, certainly it was also because Randell suddenly went out of control under false charges, she gave a deep sigh and helped Randell get up.

The cause why Randell charged at Hajime was obviously due to Kaori.

The completely changed Kaori (body) caused Randell to be surprised and he asked for the reason why she's become like that. From the results, it appears that he understood that it was because of "Hajime-kun", furthermore, due to Kaori's expression while talking about Hajime being exactly like a maiden in love, he finally realised who his true enemy was.

And, a guy who tossed away Kaori's original body can't possibly be a good guy! once he convinced himself he began to rush in and witnessed Hajime embracing another woman while Kaori was yearning for him in her heart which caused him to hit his boiling point in anger.

Randell had intended to challenge and rescue the trapped princess from the demon lord Hajime but…..the results were as shown presently.

Far from giving a beating, he wasn't even able to get close and treated as a minor hindrance, it was pathetic and mortifying so tears finally started flowing out.

While being picked up into Ririana's arms, Randell suddenly cried out, [Aneue~*Older sister*] and clung onto her. Looking at his state, as expected even for Hajime, did I overdo it? he thought as he scratched his cheek. Shizuku was piercing him with an amazed glance at his childishness.

But, Randells misfortunes have not yet ended. Immediately after he buried his face into Ririana's chest, Kaori entered the room.

[Ah, his highness Randell, and Riri as well…...wait, what's wrong your highness!? Your crying so much!]
[Ka, Kaori!? No, this, this is, it's not like I wanted to be comforted by my sister…..]

Randell quickly separated from Ririana and desperately made excuses. In front of the woman who he liked, he couldn't bear to say that he was a boy who wanted to be comforted and held by his older sister.

However, Kaori understood the rough situation from Shizuku and Ririana's expression and from Randell's crying and Hajime's attitude, and she finally dropped a bomb after a long time.
[Geez….it's Hajime-kun right? Who made his highness cry. It's not good to bully a younger child]

[No, it's because he suddenly tried to beat me, I just patted him a little…..]

He was actually being serious, but not even being a threat to Hajime, Randell fell into shock. However, the most damaging part was that it was judged that he was naturally being bullied. Suppressing his chest he groaned out, [Gu].

[Patting him…..did you properly "hold back"? His highness is still a "child" after all?]

After having been treated like a child from the woman who he liked, Randell who was humiliated by the assumption, [Ha~u!], further suppressed his chest.

[Ahh, I only flicked some sugar cubes? There's probably hardly any damage. As expected even I wouldn't go around shooting a child]
[But he was "holding onto" Riri wasn't he…...moreover his forehead is reddening. Even though he had such a "cute" face….his highness is a bit "quick to assume" and "tends to run out of control" but, at the bottom of it all he's a "good child" so if possible I'd like it if you could "properly choose your opponents".....]

She was completely aware that he was comforting himself with Riri, while being evaluated as cute as a man, having his bad points pointed out that his older sister continually noted, and furthermore being treated as a child. Randell's knees suddenly gave out and he fell onto the ground on all fours.

[Ara~ra], Riri had a troubled smile but, Shizuku and the old men, [Please stop already, his highnesses life points are already at 0~!], seemed to be raising out bitter voices within themselves.

However, Kaori didn't let up. She worried about Randell who suddenly fell and called out anxiously.

[Your highness, are you alright? As expected the spot where you were hit was too much….]
[.....No, I'm not injured. Rather than that…..Kaori…….what does Kaori think about me?]

Randell who was covered in wounds, decisively heard Kaori's feelings

[For his highness? Let's see….sometimes I become envious of Riri. I also~ want a naughty younger brother like his highness]
[Gufu~...young, younger brother…..]

The bomb that was dropped with a smile gave additional damage to Randell. Shizuku and the old men were thinking, why would you purposely pour salt onto the wound like that! with a face that seemed to want to cry, it seemed that Randell's eyes had no more strength to withstand it.

However, even if he's small Randell is a man, he can't afford to stop here. Over the past few days, he cried a lot from the news of his fathers death, was helped up by his mother and older sister, and had just sworn in front of the grave to be strong. Now that the king of this country was gone he needed to lead it, he can't afford to be stopped by this level of pain!

[Then…..is that kind of guy good? What's so good about that guy!]

Rendell stared and ~Ki'ed!~ at Hajime, it was as if he was appealing and implying, [Open your eyes Kaori! You should already know who's better!].

Hajime firmly held onto Yue from behind as Randell stared at him. From Randell's view, he was likely the worst person a woman could fall for.

However, Kaori's reply was obvious…..

[Eh? wh, what's with that your highness, suddenly….mo~u, it's embarrassing. But…..fufu, let's see. That person is the person I love. If you asked me what about him I liked then, everything, I guess…..fufu]

And, that gave the final blow to Randell.

Once again Randell looked down and trembled greatly while still on all fours. Although Kaori was worried and about to rubbed his back with her hand and call out to him, Randell suddenly got up and rejected Kaori's hand as he bolted towards the entrance.

And, he turned around once he reached the door,

[I hate the likes of youuuuu!!!]

He cried out loud and ran off. As he left, the shining thing at the corner of his eyes probably wasn't their imaginations. From a distance, [Ua~aaaaaan!!], it was not understood if it was a cry or a courageous shout but it was clearly heard. After Randell's sudden escape, the dumbfounded old men, [Your highness~!], they shouted as they left the room to chase after Randell.

[.....That's youth for you]
[Hi~i, more like personal affairs…..you've made him cry]
[No, ma~a, that's right but…..the one who dealt the finishing blow was Kaori right?]
[Ku, I can't refute that…..]

Hajime muttered out as Randell's first love dispersed like the petals of cherry blossoms and Shizuku added in a tsukkomi. Kaori was wondering what was going on and about to run after Randell but Ririana stopped her.

Ririana knew that sooner or later Randell's first love would come to an end, she had intended to comfort her younger brother by sleeping together with him for tonight. Randell was someone who will soon

become the King of this country. He should be able to shrug off one or two unrequited loves.

When Ririana firmly closed the door that was left open, she walked towards Hajime and them along with Kaori. It appears that, rather than chasing after Randell, it seemed like she had something to talk about with Hajime and them. Ririana took the seat next to Shizuku.

Kaori was…..locking arms in "hand to hand" against Yue while trying to sit on Hajime's opposite knee which caused them to look like they were pro wrestling.

If it were her original body then, Kaori wouldn't be able to stand up against Yue because she was able to strengthen her body through direct magic manipulation while Kaori was a support type, however, because of the apostle's body she's well able to compete now….more like she seems to be the one who was pushing.

[Kaori….You've become so strong….]
[No, Shizuku. Stop being impressed and stop them]

Ririana tsukkomied Shizuku who had a slightly lonely expression while making her remark. Since there was some shock when Kaori died once, Shizuku was slightly becoming a regrettable person when regarding Kaori. There's no way they could have the classes number 1 person with the most common sense turn into a regrettable character so, Hajime gave Kaori a strong flick to the forehead which forced her to sit on the seat besides them.

[U~u, it's unfair that it's only Yue…..]
[.....Fufu, I won't give up Hajime's knee]
[Ano~, I'd like to begin the talk soon but…..]

Ririana called out coyly. However no one paid any attention to her.

[Hajime-kun…..]

[Don't look at me with those eyes, Kaori. You're sitting next to me, isn't it fine?]
[.....I guess it can't be helped then. I'll give you my hand]
[Eh? Really? Then, I want you to caress my cheeks just like how you do it for Yue. ……Or is it no good?]
[If it's just that much then I don't mind]
[Ehehe, thanks, Hajime-kun]
[I'll wait then. Waiting should be fine right? Yes, I'll wait no matter how long…..~gusu~]

Ririana who completely missed her timing to talk, [I, even though I'm a princess…..It's like I'm air], with tears. Shizuku interviened as she couldn't stand it any longer, and finally, Hajime and their pink barrier was removed. Was a bit of Kaori also a part of it? It seems to have been stronger than usual. Is it proof that Kaori's single-minded pursuit was overcoming Hajime…..

[~Kohon~. Back to what I was saying, just as Nagumo-san asked I've spread the rumors about the truth of the churches teachings but….unexpectedly, it seems to be going rather well. As expected, Aiko-san, no, "Goddess of Fertility" seems to have been effective]
[I see. …..Ma~a, people will believe in what they want to believe in, people will naturally get taken in the more it dramatically shakes their hearts. I expected that they'd believe it all without any problems. All that's left, is to wait to see the actual effects….there's no knowing what'll happen after all]
[.....That's right. But, it's still hard to believe. What we've believed for years have been nothing but a fantasy…..my individual stance aside, it's inevitable that a panic will start in the public. As someone from the royal family, Nagumo-san's proposal was a god send]

Ririana bowed and thanked Hajime with a complex expression. Shizuku leaned her neck to the side and and asked, [About what?].

What Hajime and Ririana were talking about was, an explanation for the head temple's collapse to the people.

It's not possible to keep it under wraps forever, the royal palace needed to explain it eventually. However, according to the truth, the "Ehito-sama" which everyone believed in only saw them on the level of being toys and was a bastard who loved war, because everyone in the head temple of the church were a bunch of fanatics, they were all blown up to bits! If that was said it would only cause a panic to occur.

There, Hajime prepared a draft to explain the details and asked Ririana to explain it to the people based on what he had written on it.

It's contents were, reason, an evil god who wished for a war had brainwashed the church members and caused the Kingdom to be invaded. Reason, Aiko who was sent by god was anxious of the situation and fought voluntarily. Reason, the church members risked their lives and fought along with god's apostles and died as martyrs in the end. Reason, In order to protect the Kingdom, Aiko's sword of light poured down, is what it said.

It's not true but it's not a lie either. It was roughly correct.

With that, Aiko as the "Goddess of Fertility" will further, "The evil god may have used Ehito-sama's name, for our own sakes, the true god that we believe in we shouldn't be something that we automatically believe in, we must become humans who are able to think for ourselves and decide when to take action for god. What's right? You must act upon your own judgement. That is what our true god believes in, and for those of the church who died as martyrs" have that kind of speech later at the memorial ceremony.

In other words, Hajime created a false "Evil Ehito" who was mistaken for the true "Good Ehito", the "Goddess of Fertility"'s speech will be the wedge which will plant recognition into the people's hearts. Even if Ehito's name was being talked about, whether it was the "Evil Ehito" or the "Good Ehito" wouldn't be distinguishable by the people, which

would in turn make them think about what they should really believe in themselves.

This way, they're able to suppress the public panic of telling the truth that everything that they've believed from when they were born was nothing more than a fantasy, and also, it may become a source of resistance against god in the future…...it's only a possibility though.

[I see now…..Nagumo-kun is actually thinking about a lot of various things huh. The talk about god too, leaving it up to Ai-chan to tell the story, and about todays things….]
[Did you mistaken me for some kind of muscle for brains or something? Ma~a, I thought of it on the spot, since it doesn't take much time or effort I decided to do it just this once, although we laid down the foundations…..]
[fufu, I didn't particularly think you were a muscle for brains. I'm saying that you're reliable. Just accept it as a complement]

Hajime shrugged his shoulders towards Shizuku's words. Shizuku glanced at such a reliable Hajime. Somehow the exchanges dispositions were shown, Yue and Kaori were both piercing their eyes onto Shizuku. Shizuku who noticed suddenly began to shake, [Eh, what? What is it?], she asked Yue and them.

[Yue, what do you think?]
[.....N, it's still fine. It's still at the friend level]
[Right. "still" huh]
[.....N. We need to be cautious]

Yue and Kaori were whispering to each other as they consulted about something. It made Shizuku feel extremely discomfortable. And Ririana became air once again.

Hajime looked at Yue and them with an amazed expression as if saying, what are you guys talking about?